



Shropshire Safeguarding  
Community Partnership

## Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

### Minutes of the Children's Safeguarding & Protection Practice

Friday 22 September 2023 – 9:00 am Via Microsoft Teams

*The Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership minutes will take note of discussion, challenge and actions, they will not be a full minutes of the meeting.*

*Please note that meetings will be recorded for the purposes of supporting the minuting of the meeting.*

Name	Organisation	Job Title
Tanya Miles (TM ) (Chair)	Shropshire Council	Executive Director for People in Shropshire
Elena Lloyd (EL)	Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care Board	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding
David Shaw	Shropshire Council	Assistant Director, Education & Achievement
Sonya Miller (SM)	Shropshire Council	Assistant Director for Children's Social Care
Teresa Tanner (TT)	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust	Safeguarding Lead for Children
Emma Harding (EH)	Shropshire Council	Safeguarding Officer, Education Improvement Service
Charlotte Percival (CP)	Shropshire Council	Safeguarding Officer, Early Years Team
Jo Kelly (JK)	Shropshire Council	Virtual School Head Teacher
Keith Barham (KB)	Youth Justice Service	Head of Service
Tracie Watson (TW)	Shropshire Council	Leaving Care Team Manager
Wendy Bulman (WB)	Shropshire Council	Domestic Abuse Development Officer
Clare Greenaway (CG) (for Tracey Ryan)	West Mercia Police	Inspector, Safer Neighbourhood Team
Paula Mawson (PM) (for Anne-Marie Speke)	Shropshire Council	Assistant Director Integration & Healthy Population Health, Wellbeing & Prevention
Tamsin Waterhouse (TW)	Shropshire Council	
Alfie Evans (AE) (for Sarah Rock)	Shropshire Community Health Trust	Nurse Specialist, Safeguarding Children
Neil Williams (for Inspector Kaye) (NW)	West Mercia Police	
Suzanne Marsden (SM)	Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital	
Dannielle Logan	West Mercia Police	



Shropshire Safeguarding  
Community Partnership

## Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Business Unit

No attendance from SSCP Business Unit

Notes were taken by Penny McLagan, Executive Support Officer to Tanya Miles (PMcL)

### Not in Attendance

Nikki Thorne (NT)	We are With You	Missing from Home Service Manager
Tracie Jones (TJ)	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust	
Sue Green (SG)	YSS	Operations Manager
Sharon Conlon (SC)	Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Safeguarding Lead for Children
Danielle Logan (DL)	West Mercia Police	Detective Inspector
Bernadette Jones (BJ)	Shropshire Community Health Trust	Nurse Specialist
Christine Kerry (CK)	Shropshire Council	Team Manager, Education Access Service
Siobhan Hughes (SH)	Shropshire Council	Service Manager, Early Years

Item	
1.	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apologies</li> </ul> <p>George Branch, Head of Probation Service Simon Arthur, Shropshire Peer Counselling &amp; Advocacy Service Steph Kelly, Shropshire Council, Children's OT Team Manager Anne-Marie Speke (Paula Mawson attending) Sue Carroll, Shropshire Council Early Years Adviser Julie Mellor, Taking Part Tracey Ryan, West Mercia Police (Clare Greenaway attending) Sarah Rock, Head of Safeguarding, Shropshire Community Health Trust (Alfie Evans attending)</p> <p><u>Conflict of Interests</u></p> <p>No conflicts of interest were declared by the group.</p>
2.	<p>Relevant Actions from previous Children's Safeguarding &amp; Protection Practice Oversight Group</p> <p><u>Accuracy of Minutes</u></p> <p>A correction was made to the Minutes:</p> <p>Page 6 Action 28: EH to inform TM by Monday the 24th of July 2023 the reasons why Education colleagues are not being represented at Safeguarding meetings with Compass.</p>



Shropshire Safeguarding  
Community Partnership

It was noted that Education colleagues are attending meetings. This action was therefore corrected so that it reads: *Education colleagues to follow up on correcting a single point of failure regarding Operation Encompass notifications in order to identify and implement a sustainable solution as soon as possible.*

The minutes were then agreed to be an accurate representation of the previous meeting.

Action Tracker

*Action 1. Corinne Chidley to agree timescale with animator for the animation for G family SCR.*

No further update. Action ongoing.

*Action 2. Jayne Randall and John Foster to discuss including in the data set information on drug and alcohol new presentations coming to services where a parent is living with children.*

No further update. Action ongoing.

*Action 3. SHB to change the wording in the business plan about establishing minimum standards to aid managers in their discussions with staff about their Neglect cases, as the group said it is up to the managers to ensure their staff are using the tools through supervision. Therefore, it was agreed for JD and FD to hold a multi-agency focus group with managers about what would support them to ensure they prompt their staff to use the tools.*

Neglect training has been undertaken across the service, workers are GPC2 trained. Example of outstanding practice gained on tackling Neglect at an Early Help level and will be shared with agencies. Action closed.

*Action 4. FD suggested getting the Neglect Screening tool and GCP2 onto the Integrated Care Board agenda.*

Siobhan Hughes is arranging for this to be added to the agenda and will update when a date is provided. Action ongoing.

*Action 7. SSCP Business Unit to raise the issue with the partnership around the inconsistent attendance from health at the Disabled Children's Triage.*

EL updated that a meeting has been arranged with Jeanette Hill in October to look at the service spec, health involvement, issues and challenges. This includes arranges at strategy meetings. Action ongoing.

*Action 8. SH to provide the full report on Children Looked After who were on a Child Protection Plan for Neglect.*

Siobhan Hughes has updated that this will be completed when new QA Lead and Principal IRO are in place. Action ongoing.

*Action 9. Agencies to provide the feedback on the frontline practitioner's usage on the Neglect Screening Tool.*

BL has condensed actions related to the Neglect Screening Tool into a single action. No further updates. Action ongoing.

*Action 11. The Business Unit to ensure that agencies are included with the roles in the membership list in the Terms of Reference.*

No further update, TM and PMcL will check with Business Unit. Action ongoing.

*Action 14. BL to investigate whether it is possible for partners to receive updates when new documents are uploaded to the website.*

No further update, PMcL will check with Business Unit. Action ongoing.

*Action 16. SM to investigate whether concerns around online harm are coming to Children's Services or whether this is being dealt with within schools.*

No further update. Action ongoing.



Shropshire Safeguarding  
Community Partnership

*Action 18. LC to check whether the comments from the Strategic Planning Day have been incorporated into the dataset.*

No further update. Action ongoing.

*Action 22. All partners to confirm at the next meeting that their agencies have completed the feedback from frontline staff using the neglect screening tool survey. Business Unit to resend Survey to Partnership mailing list with deadline for completion on the 8th of September 2023.*

Partners are still completing this action. Action ongoing.

*Action 23. SM, SH and AS to discuss moving Graded Care Profile 2 training into Early Help and to report back at the next meeting of the group.*

SM updated that further conversations will be held with Donna Chapman by 29/09/23. Action ongoing.

*Action 24. Partners to put their summaries into a slide or into an e-mail in order to capture all of the information from the Children's Safeguarding Summit.*

Most have been received, some still awaited, Corinne Chidley to follow up. Action ongoing.

*Action 25. EH to look at actions that are recorded on both the Children's Practice Oversight Group's action tracker and Strategic Action Plan to see whether they can be amalgamated.*

No further update. Action ongoing.

*Action 26. To form an urgent Task & Finish Group to examine the amount of local Child Protection procedures in Shropshire and their availability on the West Midlands Procedures Page, to be attended by EH, DL, SC and Lisa Charles.*

The Board are not clear who is to lead on this, TM will follow up with LC. Action ongoing.

*Action 27. All Partners to share at least two examples at the next meeting of the Group where Safeguarding Children has not been done right within their organisation and what changes need to be made to correct these issues.*

Not discussed at meeting. Add to agenda for next meeting. Action ongoing.

*Action 28. Education colleagues to follow up on correcting a single point of failure regarding Operation Encompass notifications in order to identify and implement a sustainable solution as soon as possible*

It was noted that education colleagues are attending meetings. EH is working in Education teams to resolve, there is currently only a single person so funding is being sorted and are looking to ensure a joined-up approach, with capacity. EH will update the action tracker. Action ongoing.

*Action 29: Health colleagues to inform TM by Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 the reasons why Health colleagues are not being represented at Safeguarding meetings with Compass.*

Elena will meet with Jeanette Hill in October to look at the service spec, health involvement, issues and challenges. There is a plan in place. Action ongoing.

*Action 30. AS to update TM on the new arrangements which would result in increased Health representation at Strategy meetings.*

Elena is picking this up, as above. Action ongoing.

*Action 31. The reviewing of the Threshold document will be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Children's Practice Oversight Group.*

To be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Action ongoing.

*Action 32. BL to find and share the numbers of staff who had accessed the SSCP website within the last three months and share them with the Children's Practice Oversight Group.*

TM/PMcL to follow up with Business Unit. Action ongoing.



Shropshire Safeguarding  
Community Partnership

	<p><i>Action 32. Voice of the Child resources to be delayed until the next meeting of the Children's Practice Oversight Group.</i></p> <p>To be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Action ongoing.</p>
3.	<p><b>Children's Safeguarding Summit Update</b></p> <p>TM advised that the next follow-up meeting would be held on 26 September, at Shirehall.</p>
4.	<p><b>Update from Strategic Governance Group</b></p> <p>TM confirmed that Development Officers from the Business Unit would author reports, however there are currently a lot of staff off sick so support to the Strategic Governance Group is limited. TM will try to ensure support is provided to this important meeting and would welcome any support from partners in this regard.</p>
5.	<p><b>Performance Review</b></p> <p>TM would like a focus on this. There are a number of data lines that each partner is asked to contribute and TM said that this group need to agree what they would like to see as an oversight in order to ensure safeguarding of children.</p> <p>SM shared on screen the CHAT data update, and explained what it looks at and what it measures and tracks. She will share this with the Group after the meeting. She explained each of the key points, particularly the key measure of rate of contact to referral (where threshold has been met for a level 4 intervention at this point in time). It is hoped that the revamped Early Help unit will be effective in picking things up at the earliest opportunity so that contacts come in as Early Help contacts rather than for significant harm.</p> <p><b>CHILD PROTECTION:</b></p> <p>Sonya explained the figures around assessment and S47 enquiries. An audit has been done around a peak earlier in the year. Following this there was a change in practice and the figures do seem to have dropped. This may be a training need in not using strategy meetings for S47.</p> <p>Sonya also talked through IPCs and CPCs, which are all multi agency. The multi-agency rate of attendance is important to understand as workflow impacts on everybody.</p> <p>Thresholds have not been changed but are working harder to apply them and to pick up early help work at the earliest opportunity. Also to be more robust early on regarding decision which will enable families to have access early on to assistance.</p> <p>Shropshire is slightly below their statistical neighbours, this could perhaps be explained because children are going straight from previously not known to CLA because they have been missing out the early help step.</p> <p>There was a peak in August for repeat plan numbers, due to two families of six that came back in (note it is a 27% increase, not 27 children).</p> <p>Exits are all tracked.</p>



Shropshire Safeguarding  
Community Partnership

#### CHILD IN NEED:

This is tracking lower than statistical neighbours. We are benchmarking higher on CLA and have flagged that a number of these are 0-4 year olds.

SM requested all partners to read the "Working Together" document, which makes significant proposals re changes. Partners who don't have a copy should ask SM for one. Support provided at the earliest possible point will have a significant impact on children's social care workload. The document provides clear guidance as to where needs should be social care and where they are other agencies.

#### CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER (CLA):

Our CLA rate is significantly higher than that of both our statistical neighbours and England. Part of this is UASC, which has increased a lot recently where as other LAs have always had more, but we also have more large sibling groups and 0-4s (hence the summit meetings). There is a lot of work being done to get children out of care but this indicator is lower than statistical neighbours and we want to improve it. It had begun to be more in line but then there was the August dip. It is important that health and education colleagues understand and work with us to get ceases and plans for ceasing.

Shropshire to date has 705 CLA, which is the highest ever, and higher than statistical neighbours and the England average. 16 UASC were received last week, along with another group of 6 siblings.

UASC figures were discussed, not many are actually placed in Shropshire but in Wolverhampton/Birmingham etc.

At the summit meeting next week these figures will be broken down into referrals from health and other sources. SM advised that if any partner needs data to help them explore this she will approach Tim Compton. There will be a PowerBI ready in the next few months and this will enable checking by postcode/area. There does seem to be a geographical differentiation around the county.

Partners were interested in seeing these statistics and would welcome seeing in more depth. Paula advised that at the last summit there had been action to look at those 0-4 children brought in for strategy discussion in Q1 and several partners had sent her their data. She has information from 12 different agencies and it showed that the families were known via early help and the wider system. Further work will flow out of this and discussion as to why significant harm is happening before the children come to social care.

Sonya agreed but said it is not just 0-4 and there will also be a pathway to look at what is happening with parents and other triggers eg MH, drugs, alcohol. For this group it's about acknowledging that as a system it is not as healthy as we would like it to be. She also advised that this is just one dataset and we can dig deeper. It is hoped that Tim Compton can attend a future meeting to show what the database can do.

Emma said that these messages also need to be shared with schools, and earlier in the system. TM confirmed that the early help data had been a gap and it is currently being developed. SM agreed that once the universal data was available the joining up can be done to identify families where early intervention would be needed, the "before it goes wrong" data rather than the "it's going wrong". SM said that the rate of CLA in Shropshire tells us that the prevention system is not working - not just us but parents are struggling, your teams know this, but we are the ones that can do something about it.

JK agreed that in terms of demand management the Power BI will be a huge help to being able to see what safeguarding and protective factors can be put in place earlier, where children are not in school and are excluded and gave the example of a permanent exclusion which was cancelled but data would have helped in getting this done earlier.



Shropshire Safeguarding  
Community Partnership

TM asked how this group's data sets can be brought together to enable the group to have oversight of Child Protection rather than just relying on the Council's data set. It was felt that data sets were not being shared because of the amount that has been requested. It was felt that this group needs to agree what other data partners hold that would be useful and that would be valuable to put into one set for this group to look at. TM said it is this group's responsibility to ensure that the lack of data sharing for any case is not raised by Ofsted.

There was discussion about this.

Danielle for the Police said that they have a good set, with a volunteer who analyses their data. They look at DA stats, safeguarding enquiries, strategy meetings, evasion checks, conferences data, the data goes back to 2016. They are happy to share and then partners can let her know what they would like her to bring to meetings each time. They have seen a 25% rise in demand which is having an impact on their functional effectiveness as a team, since capacity has not increased.

For Health TT said that they held data on the number of contacts made to the Trust safeguarding team and number of referrals made into Compass by Health Triage. Then following that they have the numbers for no further action or for further help, i.e. the numbers going to MARAC and also those not meeting the criteria.

KB said WMYJS hold data on the number of children going through to his service, those with a health and wellbeing risk and markers re exploitation/child abuse. More specific markers eg knife crime, children at risk of being remanded, could be looked at if the group wished.

**Action: SM/PMcL to invite Tim Compton to the next meeting to give a PowerBI presentation.**

**Action: SM/TM to ask Tim Compton to liaise with colleagues to look at pulling all LA/police/health/WMYJS data into one place so that for future meetings we all have access and oversight of children's protection and safeguarding in Shropshire.**

There was then a discussion regarding the summit follow-up meeting on the 26 September which will have a focus on 0-4 year olds and how to identify families early on to prevent CLA. TM asked partners if there were any other key actions needed by this group so enable the partnership to prevent CLA.

EH suggested sharing a slide with key information. She will link with Donna Chapman who can share her an existing slide (used in safeguarding training) that EH can forward to front line staff. EL asked for the slide to also be shared with her so that she can share slide with GPs, Health Pods etc so they understand what they can do differently in terms of Early Help. SM advised that if any further information was required, please approach Siobhan Hughes.

Training and Development:

SM advised that the August Safeguarding Board had requested provision of a dataset that was accurate and useful, which was being worked on with the IT team on.

SM also explained Donna Chapman's new role. There is now a partnership training and development programme for the whole of People Directorate (both adults and children) as well as for the Partnership (taking it over from SSCP). Donna and her team have moved across, and Donna is leading this transformation programme. A priority is multi-agency safeguarding training for children and adults, ensuring it is multi agency, easy to access, impactful and face to face. Some courses may have a small charge attached to them but that won't be large. Some mandatory training will remain free. It is hoped this will enable multi agency understanding about safeguarding to really take off again.



Shropshire Safeguarding  
Community Partnership

	<b>ACTION: TM to invite Donna Chapman to present at the next meeting.</b>
6.	<p><b>Strategic Action Plan Review</b></p> <p>It was agreed that this will be shared for all Board members to update.</p>
7.	<p><b>Children’s Statutory Case Review Group Update</b></p> <p>The Group has not met since this Board last met, so there was no update.</p>
14.	<p><b>Risk Register</b></p> <p>Updates were provided as follows:</p> <p>JK - safeguarding session done at the beginning of this term, so hopefully now it is beginning to be embedded.</p> <p>SM - piece of work done with police re S47 where couple of cases hadn’t gone as well as would have wished.. Good reflection between respective leaders. Summary and briefing will be shared. The learning was that if we don't maintain the joint training and development then we end up making assumptions about what the other is doing, therefore it is very important to have the joint training, in order to remind staff of joint perspectives, and where as part of the process the different responsibilities and processes get invoked.</p> <p>SH – there is a new process for Early Help front door, from beginning of September. Staff have worked very hard and so far going well, lot of work going on to make sure families get the Early Help offer at a point they need it and are not going on a waiting list. It is about being proactive at front door and working with staff to do things better and quicker.</p> <p>Danielle would be visiting Humberside next week to observe their front door practices from a police perspective, but she will also ask questions about how it works with the LA. Their set up is similar and they are recognised as an excellent front door. She feels the front door referral/contact into Compass needs to be looked at and will ask about this too while she is there.</p> <p>PM - there has been a T&amp;F group set up re substance/alcohol/DV to work together to get the complex pathways working. Although focusing on adults, a key part will be how the children are impacted. Integration teams are up and running in Oswestry and Shrewsbury, Ludlow will open next and people are already offering help and then it will be Bridgnorth. Public Health are working closely with SM and SH re Family Community Hubs to ensure these are being set up in the right places, so that Early Help intervention will make a significant difference. In response to a question from TM, PM confirmed that the Drug and Alcohol teams have been asked to do home visits where there are children but these are not yet set up.</p> <p>DS - has encouraged Early Years to share things as there have been some challenging events. There is wider staff training in Education around policy and practice, t and raising awareness.</p> <p>EH – confirmed that Education had recognised that things did need to be better joined up. There has been more conversation and comms as well as a training package. Key messages will go across teams as well as Early Years settings and schools. It was noticeable that good practice was following this better understanding, including back office staff noticing and raising safeguarding issues. It is important to recognise that everybody has a role, it’s not just child protection staff. It is still work in progress and more learning is being identified.</p>





Shropshire Safeguarding  
Community Partnership

CP – links are being made with other safeguarding partners and all are giving the same consistent messages to professionals and to the families they are working with. Need to identify how to support practitioners in the practice of that safeguarding, therefore training is being reviewed to identify how to focus on that rather than just what the processes are. Will be linking with Donna to ensure consistency of message.

EL - one of the rapid reviews looked at GPs attending strategy meetings, but the outcome was not the hoped-for positive one. The outcome of the audit evidenced that information sharing between the LA and GP's is limited and when information is shared, it is unclear how the GP's record and update records. There has been discussions within the LA team and a re-audit will be carried out in November with an aim to have this shared at the end of Q3.

TM said that information needs to be properly shared when families move GPs, one case had recently highlighted that the GP was not aware that children were on CP plan. Elena updated that it had been identified it was a system error and process now changed so should prevent in future. TM thanked her and reiterated the need to ensure all records are updated.

TT – the results of another health audit were recently available and this has proved the health triage is a very effective process. There is now also a process for ambulance referrals as well as SaTH referrals and this is proving very helpful. Currently the named doctor is on leave so there is an interim. He is looking at referrals and coordinating the consent side of this so that consent is taken at the beginning for everything, thus streamlining the process for everybody involved (hospital, children, parents, hospitals, Sonya). Results should be available around November. TM requested that between now and then the process is made very clear eg the role and how quickly we need that doing. TT said the Royal College pathway and has been issued at least twice. Their guideline for reports back is 7 days but they don't use but say asap (48 hrs). There is a dedicated CP secretary for providing very urgent reports eg for court cases.

TM thanked all the partners for their very helpful updates and work on this. She reiterated the importance of all partners feeding back into this group any learning and impact from initiatives. The expectation moving forward is that this group will use this feedback format to identify the impact and what we as leaders are doing to improve. So children are safeguarded in Shropshire.

15.	<p><b>Matters to be Raised to Strategic Governing Group</b></p> <p>No items raised by this Group. TM attends and can feed back, but welcomed any areas from partners that can be fed into their strategic leads.</p>
16.	<p><b>What was discussed today that makes a difference to people's lives?</b></p> <p>No items raised.</p>
17.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Concerns, Areas of Good Practice</b></p> <p>TM said this is an important meeting for the partnership and opened the floor for partner updates.</p> <p>Wendy raised the recent legislation regarding those children affected by domestic abuse and putting them at the heart of our actions. She asked whether this group felt a separate working group was needed to look at</p>



Shropshire Safeguarding  
Community Partnership

this. She felt there was ambiguity both nationally and locally in how we respond, so suggested we look at it ourselves rather than wait for guidance.  
TM welcomed feedback on this and any other suggestions of how to improve this group, their role on it and any agenda items.

**Action: All to offer any feedback/suggestions to TM.**

It is possible that there will again be no SSCP Business Unit support available for the next meeting so all offers of help are welcome from partners.

18.

### Next Meeting

#### Agenda items:

- All Partners to share at least two examples at the next meeting of the Group where Safeguarding Children has not been done right within their organisation and what changes need to be made to correct these issues.
- The reviewing of the Threshold document will be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Children's Practice Oversight Group
- Voice of the Child
- Tim Compton to be invited for presentation of Power BI
- Donna Chapman to be invited to talk to the group about her new role

#### Date of meeting:

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 2.00-4.00pm