

# WARWICKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



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## FOREWORD BY INDEPENDENT CHAIR

It is with pleasure that I introduce this annual report covering the work of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Partnership during 2023-24. This report provides a transparent overview of the multi-agency safeguarding activity that took place during the period. It reflects the hard work and dedication of all our partner organisations and their staff as they have safeguarded and promoted the welfare of Warwickshire's children, young people and adults with care and support needs.

Following the publication of the Government's revised document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023', a considerable amount of time has been spent working closely with the Safeguarding Leaders to plan how Warwickshire can achieve compliance and build on the progress of the last 6 years. At the same time, we were proud to hear that Warwickshire was appointed a pathfinder authority for Children First. This opportunity inevitably requires some changes to the way we operate currently, not least the separation of the safeguarding boards for adults and children. During this period of significant change, resources have been stretched. Partners continue to manage the impact of austerity, the cost-of-living crisis, and the implications of the post-pandemic world as well as international turbulence. I am assured that Warwickshire Safeguarding Partnership has remained totally committed to our shared purpose of working together to support and safeguard children, young people and adults with care and support needs.

This year has seen the partnership continue to develop its work around exploitation. I am particularly impressed by the resources that have been developed for partners, children, young people and adults with care and support needs during 2023. These include the development of a Missing Children Response Tool, the launch of the 'Somethings Not Right' campaign and the Warwickshire Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2023-26 that sets out Warwickshire's three-year partnership approach to ending VAWG in Warwickshire.

In June 2023, Warwickshire Safeguarding Partnership held its first face-to-face conference since the global pandemic bringing together partner organisations from across the County. The theme of the Conference was 'Tackling Online Social Influences' addressing key influences impacting safeguarding with particular focus on 'Responding to youth produced sexual imagery', 'Reframing masculinity in society for young men and boys', 'Abuse via modern day technology and impact misogynistic online influences' and 'Understanding the world of hackers, fraudsters and online scammers'. The event provided rich learning to incorporate into the partnership's work moving forward.

I mentioned in last year's report that we could expect to see the impact of the pandemic, the economy, and social media on the lives and experiences of children and young people. This has been particularly apparent in relation to mental health and emotional instability, absence from school and self-neglect. Work in these areas has been described in the report.



## FOREWORD BY INDEPENDENT CHAIR

As in previous years, we have focused heavily on learning from practice, and in particular Child Safeguarding Practice reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews. During 2023-2024 we published the lessons learnt briefings on two CSPRs and a thematic review looking at self-neglect. A number of 7-minute briefings were produced and shared across the partnership, and included Mental Health and The Mental Capacity Act, Home Invasions, Think Family and Pica Awareness. More details can be found in the body of this report.

Yet again, this has been a busy and challenging year.

I would like to pay tribute to colleagues across Warwickshire, who despite the challenges have continued to work incredibly hard to deliver effective outcomes for individuals, families, and vulnerable adults, and introduce new services and ways of working.

Elaine Coleridge Smith  
Independent Chair & Scrutineer  
Warwickshire Safeguarding



# WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome to Warwickshire Safeguarding Partnership (WSP) Annual Report of effectiveness for 2023-2024.

The publication of the annual report is a statutory requirement for Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Partnerships across the country. This is in accordance with Care Act 2014 and Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023.

Its purpose is to set out the work of the WSP across the year, giving attention to key areas of practice, emerging issues, and priorities for safeguarding children at risk of abuse and / or neglect and adults with care and support needs.

The WSP Annual Report covers the period 1st April 2023 to the 31st March 2024 and provides an analysis of the effectiveness of the joint safeguarding arrangements in Warwickshire. The report will set out the work undertaken during the year to safeguard both adults and children.

At the heart of this report is a commitment to transparency, accountability and above all the protection of the most vulnerable children, adults, and families in our county.

The safeguarding system across Warwickshire is robust and the report highlights the excellent work undertaken every day by dedicated staff.



# WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF WARWICKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP?

The WSP membership comprises of representation from the following organisations:

| <b>Warwickshire County Council Children Services</b> | <b>Nigel Minns, Executive Director for Children and Young People</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Warwickshire and Coventry Integrated Care Board      | Jackie Channell, Associate Chief Nurse for Safeguarding              |
| Warwickshire Police                                  | Pete Hill, Detective Superintendent                                  |
| Warwickshire County Council Adult Services           | Pete Sidgwick, Director of Adult Services                            |

The WSP is Independently Chaired by Elaine Coleridge-Smith.

The WSP business manager for children and adults safeguarding attends all meetings to provide technical advice to the partnership.

The Board met eight times over the course of the business year. In addition to the scheduled board meetings, there has also been a Joint Safeguarding Partners meeting.

## **Funding the Partnership**

The funding for the partnership has remained largely at the same level as previous years' contributions from partners with slight increases of contribution aligned with inflation. The primary part of this budget is allocated to staffing costs for the posts held within the Business Team, including the Independent Chair & Scrutineer:

(x1) Independent Chair/Scrutineer

(x1) Business Manager

(x2) Permanent Quality, Learning & Improvement Officers

(x2) Business Development Officers

The remainder of the budget covers all day-to-day costs associated with the delivery of the partnership's work, including the cost of safeguarding reviews.



| Income Received From:              | Amount     |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Warwickshire County Council        | 150,544.00 |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council | 4,145.00   |
| Council Rugby Borough Council      | 4,145.00   |
| Warwick District Council           | 4,145.00   |
| North Warwickshire Borough Council | 4,145.00   |
| Probation Office                   | 5,669.74   |
| Warwickshire Police                | 71,162.00  |
| NHS Coventry and Warwickshire ICB  | 97,888.00  |
| Total                              | 341,843    |



## CORE DUTIES OF WARWICKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING EXECUTIVES BOARD

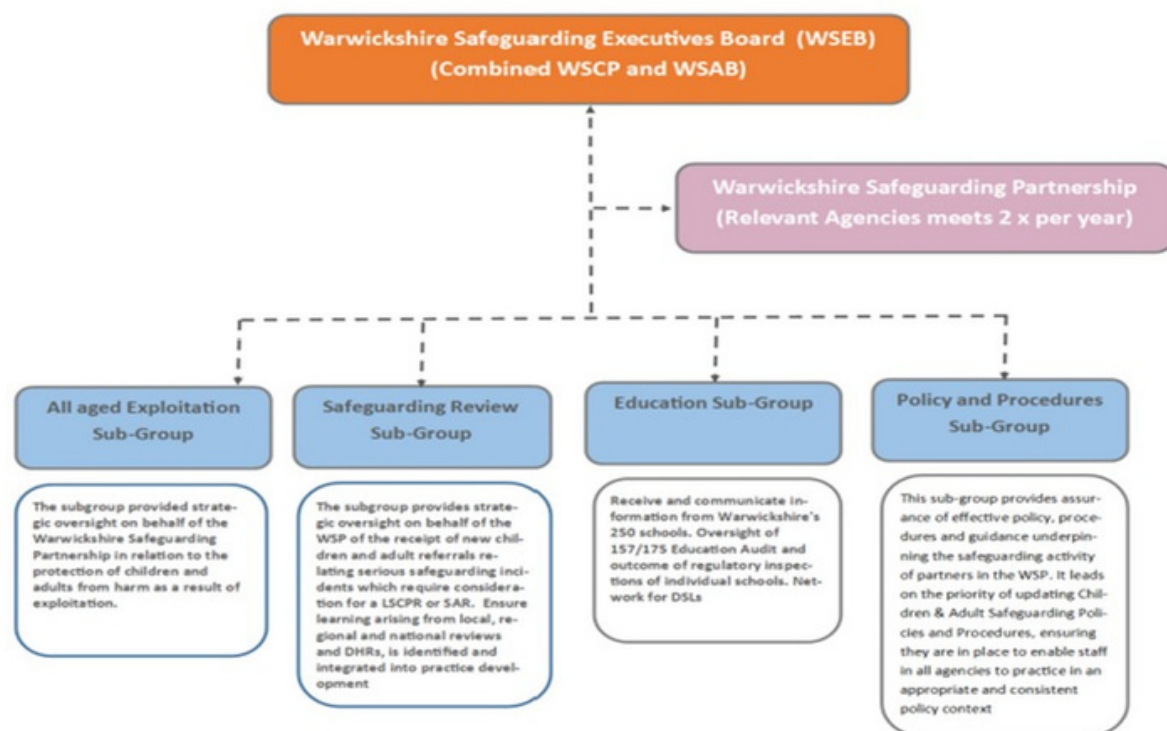
|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Agreeing on ways to align the Safeguarding Partners' safeguarding services.                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2 | Acting as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others.                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3 | Conducting safeguarding reviews of child/adult safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in Warwickshire, arrange and supervise reviews of such cases, identify improvements, and ensure that the outcomes are reported. |
| 4 | Promoting the learning from local and national safeguarding reviews pertaining to children, young people, and adults.                                                                                                              |
| 5 | Agreeing and communicating the Warwickshire priorities and commissioning intentions for safeguarding children, young people, and adults through the publication of a Strategic Plan.                                               |
| 6 | Agreeing and publishing an Annual Report detailing what the safeguarding partnership has done during the year to achieve its objectives and implement its Strategic Plan priorities.                                               |



## THE PARTNERSHIPS STRUCTURE

The Warwickshire Safeguarding Executives Board has delegated its core functions to the partnerships sub-groups. The sub-groups develop delivery plans and provide regular reports on progress to the Executives Members.

Warwickshire Safeguarding Partnership Structure 2023-2024



The WSP three safeguarding partners, together with other local relevant agencies are responsible for, and committed to:

- co-ordinating their safeguarding services for maximum impact.
- acting as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others;
- implementing local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents;
- learning from independent scrutiny that judges the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Warwickshire;
- developing processes that:
  - facilitate and drive action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries
  - ensure the effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and their families ensuring that relevant agencies have appropriate, robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place.



# SUMMARY OF KEY SAFEGUARDING FACTS FOR 2023-2024

## Safeguarding Activity in Warwickshire

One of the ways Warwickshire determines how effective the multi-agency safeguarding system is, is by looking at data. Safeguarding data helps the partnership understand how many people are in the safeguarding system that services are providing help and support to, why services are involved, from year to year understanding any key changes, and how this may compare to other similar areas regionally and nationally. This section reports on the adult and children safeguarding activity recorded within Warwickshire over the last year.

### ADULTS

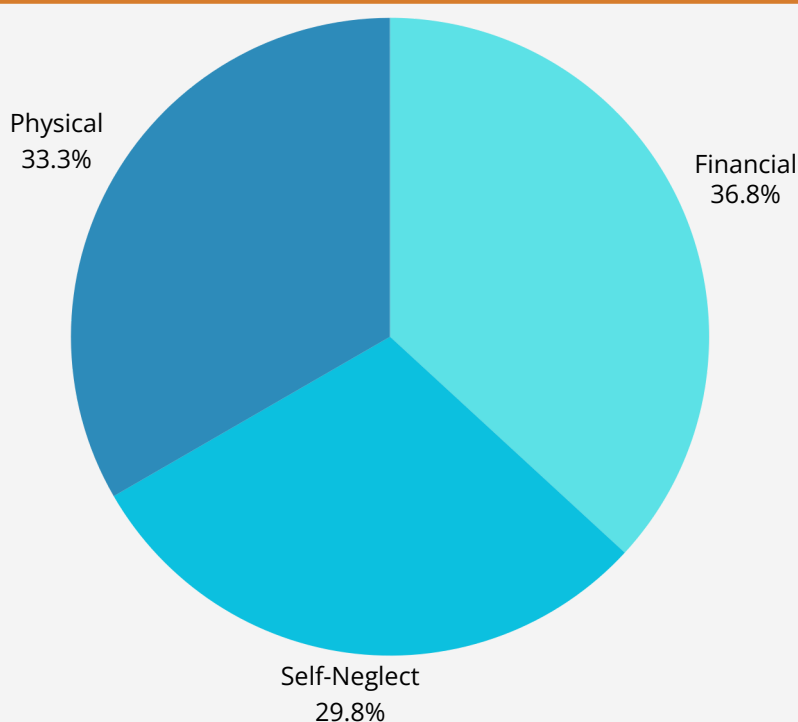
### KEY FACTS

Warwickshire has a total population of 596,773 people aged 18+ years. 125,322 (21%) of these were aged 65+ years.

**4140**  
**Concerns Recieved**  
**(just over 10% increase from 3751 in 2022/23)**

**445**  
**S42 Enquiries**  
**(58% increase from 281 in 2022/23)**

### Top 3 Types of Abuse for concluding Section 42 Enquiries





#### Section 42 Enquiries

##### Top 3 primary support reasons

- Physical Support
- Memory and Cognition
- Learning Disability Support

##### Top 2 locations of abuse for concluded Section 42 Enquiries

- Own home
- Other

#### Asked - what outcome they want

- 61.8% or 275

#### Outcome Fully or Partially met

- 90% or 400

#### Risk Reduced or Removed

- 51% or 226

Source of risk known to the to the adult  
75% or 335

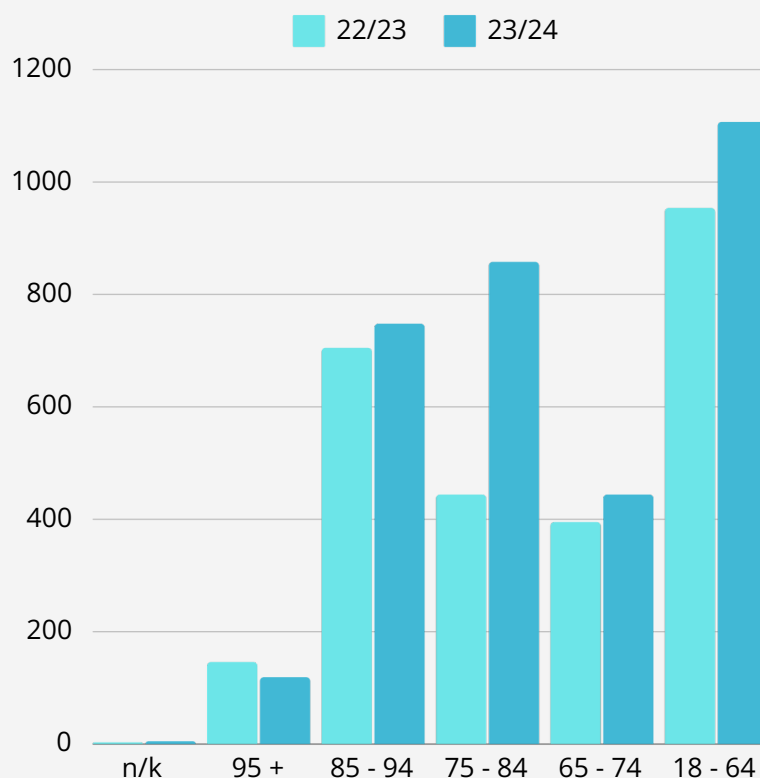
Alleged abuse by service Providers  
5% or 24

Enquiries involving strangers  
3.5% or 16



## Demographics

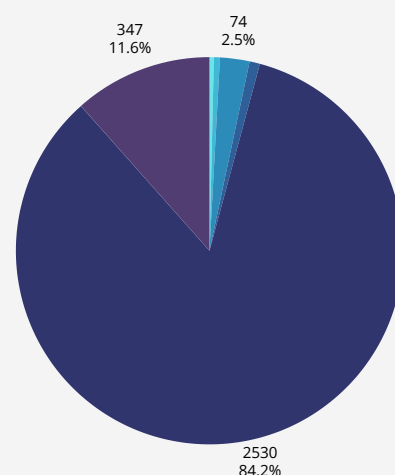
### Individuals involved in safeguarding concerns



There is a noted increase of all age ranges except for the 95yrs+, the highest increase in 75-84 and 18 to 64.

### Breakdown by Ethnicity

|                                           |      |
|-------------------------------------------|------|
| Other                                     | 11   |
| Black - African/Caribbean/British         | 15   |
| Asian - Indian/Pakistani/Chinese/ British | 74   |
| Mixed Heritage                            | 26   |
| White – British/European/Other            | 2530 |
| Undeclared/not known                      | 347  |





## CHILDREN

## KEY FACTS

Warwickshire has a resident population of approximately 119,153 children ages 0-17 years, who make up around a fifth of the total population of the county.

**17,907  
Contacts  
Received**  
  
**(16,344 in  
2022/2023)**

Referral Rate per 10,000  
aged 0-17  
453.1

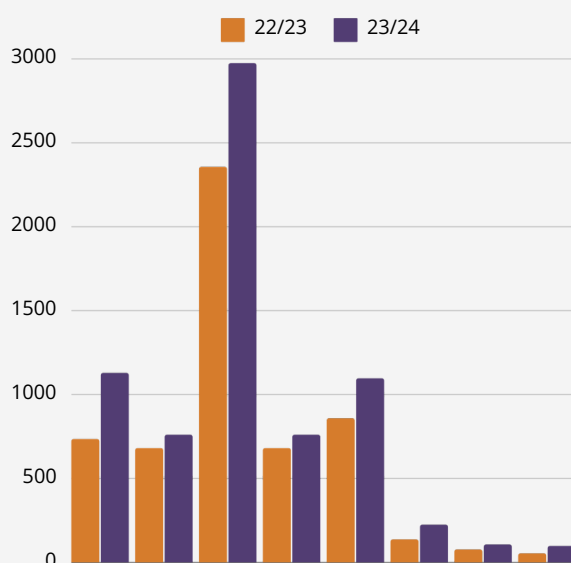
- Warwickshire's referral rate remains lower than the national average (544.5) and our regional neighbour average (527.8) but remains higher than our statistical neighbours (424.7).

**5,550  
Safeguarding  
Referrals  
Received**  
**(5,379 in  
2022/2023)**

**Number of  
statutory social  
care  
assessments  
started: 5994**  
**(5871 in  
2022/2023)**

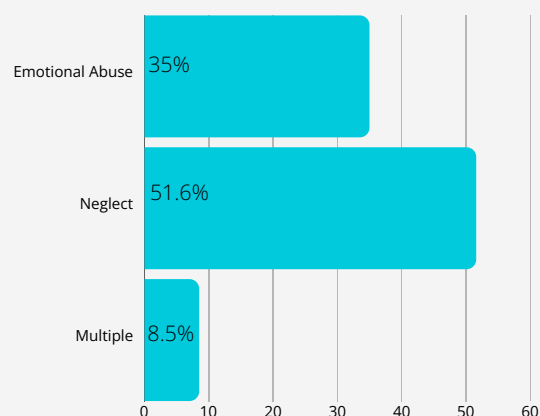
**Referrals received  
for children with a  
disability: 4.9%**  
**(3.3% in 2022/2023  
and national  
average is 6% and  
4.4% subject to  
child protection  
plans)**

### Risk Factors identified



### Total Child Protection Plans initiated 463

#### Top 3 Types of Abuse for concluding Section 42 Enquiries

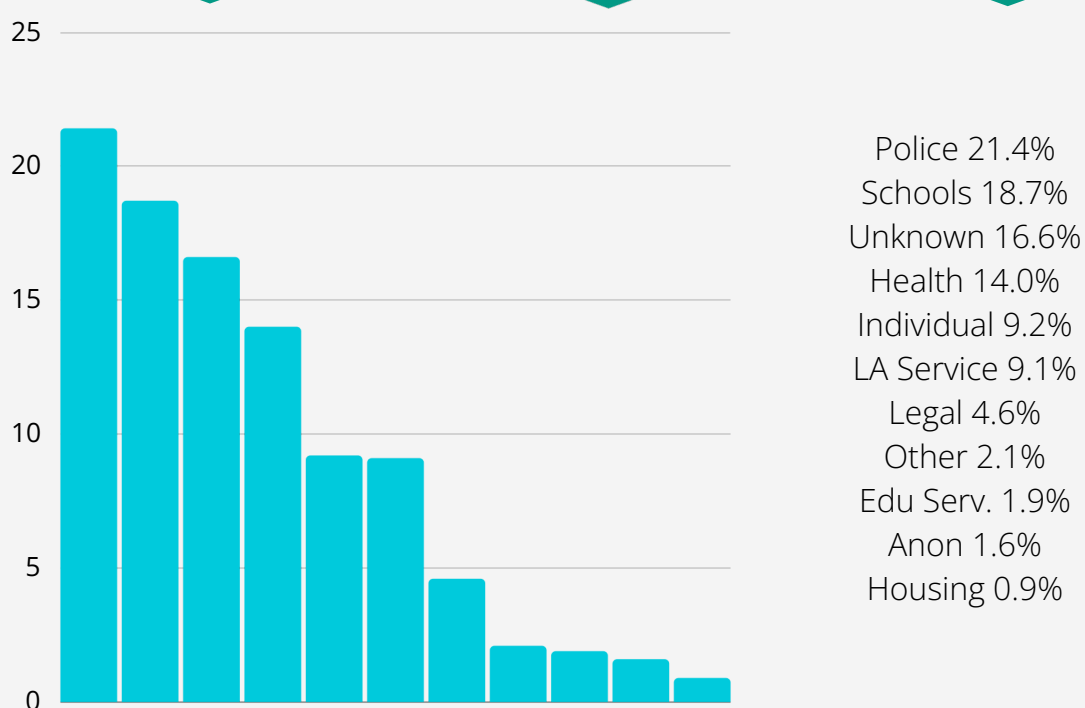




**Mental Health  
identified as  
risk factor:  
2975  
(2357 in 2022/23)**

**Domestic Violence  
as a risk factor:  
3019  
(2291 in 2022/23)**

**Drug Misuse as  
a risk factor:  
1366  
(833 in 2022/23)**



**805  
Children Looked  
After (CLA)  
(778 in 2022/23)**

**1161  
Children Looked  
After Missing  
Episodes  
(1146 in 22/23  
Involving 166 CYP)**

**2840  
Number of  
Children in  
Need with plans  
(2698 in 2022/23)**



## Demographics

### Gender of CYP subject to CPP



50% Female

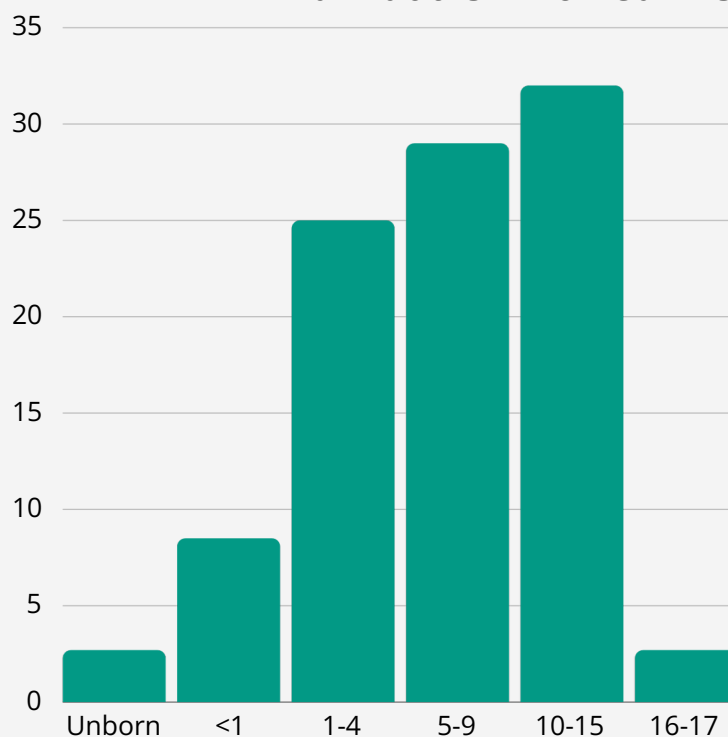


47.3% Male



2.7% Unborn

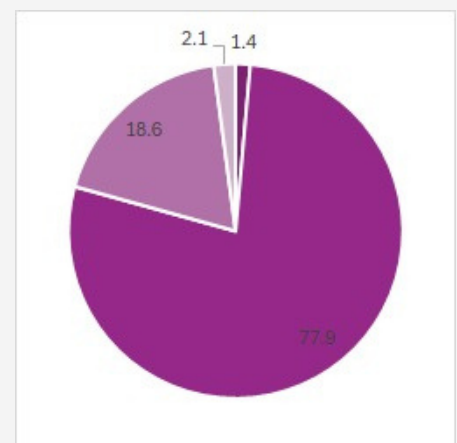
### Individuals involved in safeguarding concerns



|        |       |
|--------|-------|
| Unborn | 2.7%  |
| <1     | 8.5%  |
| 1-4    | 24.9% |
| 5-9    | 29%   |
| 10-15  | 32.2% |
| 16-17  | 2.7%  |

### Referrals by Ethnicity

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Unborn                    | 1.4%  |
| White/British/Irish/Other | 77.9% |
| Ethnic Minorities         | 18.6% |
| Not Recorded              | 2.1%  |



51.6% Care Leavers in EET  
(57.8% in 2022/23)

2275 All CYP Missing Episodes  
2113 in 2022/23 involving 649 CYP



# PROGRESS ON THE BOARD'S PRIORITIES FOR 2023-2024

## PRIORITY 1 - Exploitation

### What has been achieved by the Exploitation Subgroup?

Several resources have been developed for partners children, young people and adults with care and support needs during 2023.

- Development of a Missing Children Response Tool
- Child in Care carer's provider information pack – missing children
- Child Exploitation Problem profile
- Philomena protocol
- Focus on Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism
- Focus on Home Invasion
- Launched the 'Somethings Not Right' campaign



The subgroup also focused on strengthening areas of existing practice by:

- Increasing the spotlight on adult and child exploitation and contextual safeguarding
- Incorporating the recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.
- Identified, challenged and changed the use of language – removing victim blaming within practice.
- Focus on the reduction of criminalising children.
- Improving communication and support across children and adult services for young people.
- CPD Days for all practitioners.



## EXPLOITATION - MORE ACHIEVEMENTS...

### Children and Families:

Family Adolescent Support Team  
(FAST)

April 2023 - Full launch of the FAST multi-disciplinary service co-located with Barnardos, police and youth justice, to transform responses to adolescents facing increasingly complex situations from a range of different, usually connected, harms such as exploitation and peer violence, and often open to numerous services as victims and offenders.

During the 14 months of FAST we have also:

- updated the children and family assessment to include an extra-familial harm section, which has replaced the CE tool.
- completed work to change MACE to contextual safeguarding meetings (CSM) on mosaic,
- updated the missing children protocol, joint housing protocol and delivered training with housing,
- launched the Locality Contextual Safeguarding Meeting,
- launched the NRM devolved decision making pilot and will be launching the Contextual Safeguarding Operational Group meeting in April.

### Youth Justice Service:

- Introduction of defined prevention offer and creation of team within the service where main focus is primary prevention and diversion - Pathways.
- Serious Violence group intervention specialist added to the team to support group work within schools will continue 24/25.
- 23/24-Participation role introduced alongside a participation offer.

CHILD FRIENDLY WARWICKSHIRE

### Changes within YJS since 2020... Nationally; Child First

#### As children

Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.

#### Building pro-social identity

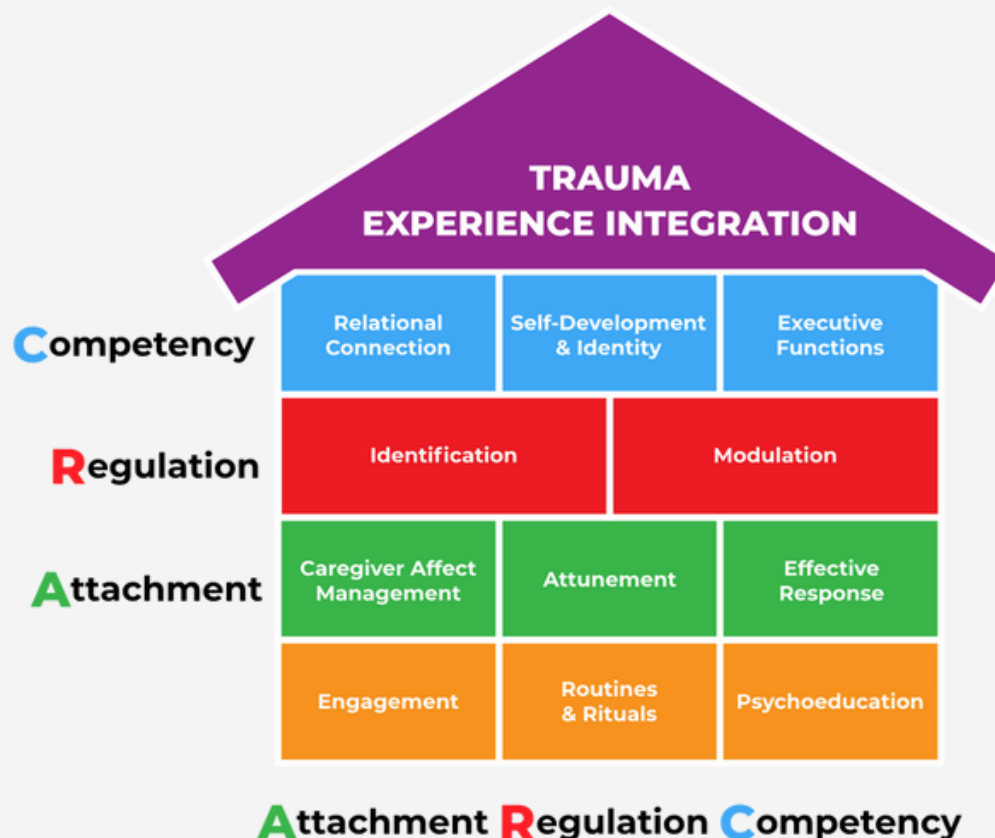
Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.

#### Collaborating with children

Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.

#### Diverting from stigma

Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.



- In partnership with Warwickshire Police Child friendly custody arrangements.
- Introduction of ARC model to support continuation of our trauma informed response.
- WYJS Trauma journey- started with an increased awareness of trauma impact on individuals, continued with awareness that organisational and processes can be either trauma reducing or inducing and now focus is on specific intervention responses to support trauma experience integration for children.



## PROBATION

Are looking to increase the provision of court mandated adult treatment requirements for mental health and drug and alcohol dependency via a new Community Sentence Treatment Requirement Board. We also wish to address gaps in mental health provision for convicted adults at high risk of reoffending.

## HEALTH SECTOR

**CWPT** has a suite of level 3 think family training packages which include Exploitation which include all ages, and the use and completion of an Exploitation tool, Domestic Abuse, DASH, and Neglect.

**SWFT** have a named nurse for exploitation. Training offered is classroom-based learning, Exploitation Safeguarding Children and Adults L3 as well as online training and any ad hoc support/training that is requested.

**The ICB** has delivered safeguarding training to all Warwickshire GPs in October 2023, January and February 2024 via their protected learning time sessions that included topics on the NRM, Modern Slavery in Adults, and Child Exploitation. The ICB is one of the decision makers with the NRM pilot since February 2023 and provides relevant information from GP records for all cases discussed.

Exploitation awareness is circulated routinely via the ICB safeguarding newsletter which reaches all health providers across Warwickshire including GP's.



## POLICE

### Warwickshire Police Missing Persons Team

- Launch of missing person team, co-located alongside FAST (Childrens Services Extra Familial Harm Team) and Warwickshire BASE (Barnardo's Exploitation Service) and Missing Persons Team (Warwickshire Police)
- Allocation to a dedicated Police 'Missing Persons Practitioner' following 3 missing episodes within a 90-day period.
- Allocated staff are responsible for attending Missing Intervention Meeting, Create



and Manage Missing Trigger Plans, Work on 'live' Missing Investigations and oversee the implementation of Missing Interventions.

- Provide Specialist advice and support around Missing Investigations, Philomena Protocol and Disruption.
- Work Closely with Trafficking and Exploitation Team.
- Traditionally there has been a withdrawal of services at the age of 18, there has been a change/shift in services recognising this.

### **Warwickshire Police Trafficking & Exploitation Team**

- Trafficking & Exploitation team went live in April 2023 North & South Teams based located at Nuneaton and Leamington Justice Centres.
- Co-Located alongside FAST (Childrens Services Extra Familial Harm Team) and Warwickshire BASE (Barnardo's Exploitation Service) and Missing Persons.
- The team have helped to safeguard 75 young people who have been or are at risk of being exploited. This exploitation can either be sexual or criminal.
- The team has also issued 30 Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWN) and 25 Child Exploitation Warning Notices (CEWN) since its introduction. These can be issued to potential suspects early in an investigation, banning them from associating with a named child.



### **Devolved Decision-Making Pilot Feb 2023- Feb 2024**

- Warwickshire piloted a programme enabling decisions about whether a child is a victim of modern slavery to be made locally by those involved in their care, ensuring decisions made are more closely aligned with the provision of local, needs-based support and any law enforcement response through the convening of local panels. Panels meet fortnightly and consist of Children's services (chair), Police and Health. The Local Authority now receive National Referral Mechanism (NRM[RS1] ) referrals which are made to the home office. Any children within 100 days of their 18th birthday and those involved with an age dispute will still be decided within the Single Competent Authority (SCA) panels. The SCA is one of the competent authorities responsible for the National Referral Mechanism process, which identifies and supports potential and confirmed victims of modern slavery.



## How has this helped to improve outcomes for young people?

- Information about each young person which is gathered to support the decisions is up to date and relevant. All agencies working with each young person are contacted to gather the information required.
- Timescales for making decisions have significantly decreased meaning young people aren't waiting lengthy times for their decisions to be made and served.
- Young people are able to use their NRM decision alongside any sec 45 defence in court. This ensures young people are not being criminalised as a result of exploitation/modern slavery.
- Identifying victims of exploitation/modern slavery in a timelier manner. Referrals being completed as soon as concerns are identified.
- Consultations offered by NRM Coordinator support the first responders to complete a quality referral at the right point with the right information.
- Referrals to the Independent Child Trafficking Guardian service being completed alongside the NRM referral means earlier 1:1 support for the young people by trained workers.



- Warning markers being added to young people children's services records when a positive conclusive grounds decision is served. This ensures all workers supporting the young person are aware they are a victim of modern slavery/exploitation.

### Data 27/02/2023 – 27/02/2024:

- ✓ **18** panels held
- ✓ **Total number of referrals – 57**
- ✓ **37** conclusive of modern slavery
- ✓ **Number of decisions made (all possible decisions) – 96**
- ✓ **Q+A pass rate - 98%**
- ✓ **Cases that positive RG and positive CG decisions were made at first panel meeting – 44%**
- ✓ **Average days for RG decision (target 45 days) – 29**
- ✓ **Average days for CG decision (target 90 days) – 44**

### Support and advice data:

- Consultations held (NRM discussion and support) - 21.
- Consultations held (information gathering) – 48



## **VAWG- SAFER WARWICKSHIRE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY 2023-2026**

### **What is it?**

The Warwickshire Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2023-26 sets out Warwickshire's three-year partnership approach to ending VAWG in Warwickshire. The four key priorities of the strategy are: 1) Prioritising Prevention 2) Supporting Victims 3) Pursuing Perpetrators and Reducing Re-offending and 4) Strengthening the System.

### **Why is it important?**

The damage and devastation caused by VAWG for the victim-survivor is enormous, wide-ranging, and can in many cases have severe lifelong consequences. This document seeks to facilitate a co-ordinated and strategic response to tackling violence and abuse, with four priorities that will be embedded into strategic plans across partner agencies.

## **Safer Warwickshire Violence against Women and Girls Strategy**

2023 - 2026



**safe in...**  
warwickshire



## **PRIORITY 2 - Prevention and Early Help**

### **Children Services**

Early Help and Targeted Support colleagues actively contribute to the strategic and local contextual safeguarding meetings including the Exploitation Subgroup and Channel Panel.

- The importance of contextual safeguarding features strongly has been a part of the Education Safeguarding delivery to schools and settings – Exploitation is part of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training and monthly thematic sessions for Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads. The Headteacher Coach liaises with schools, other settings, and signposts to professionals where support is required. Raising awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), Domestic Abuse and Harmful Sexual Behaviour have been priorities for thematic meetings and training.
- The commissioning of Loudmouth theatre group to visit schools, has been instrumental in providing accessible advice on how to stay safe and educate children on risks of exploitation and county lines. 139 sessions were delivered for children and young people (mainstream and non-mainstream). 2 staff training sessions of Child Exploitation.
- Loudmouth worked with 13,012 children and young people aged 8-18 years. 84 sessions for online safety for 8-11 years-olds. 25 sessions on Child Exploitation for 12-18-year-olds. 30 sessions on Harmful Sexual behaviours for 13-18-year-olds. A pilot on Child Exploitation was created and delivered to children and young people in the virtual and Elective Home Education community.
- The Education Safeguarding Team offer a comprehensive integrated training guide (based on the latest statutory guidance) enabling internal and external partners to effectively safeguard children and follow the appropriate systems and processes. Education Safeguarding also liaise with partners to identify and support schools in difficulty or where safeguarding intervention training is required.
- Early Help and Targeted Support, have offered a comprehensive stepped approach to services enabling immediate access to advice, support and guidance through the comprehensive Children and Families webpages managed by the Family Information Service, same day access to advice, support and guidance through the FIS phone line and Family Support line or drop-in sessions countywide in addition to formal Family Support referrals and Early Help Pathways.



## Warwickshire Police on Prevention & Early Intervention

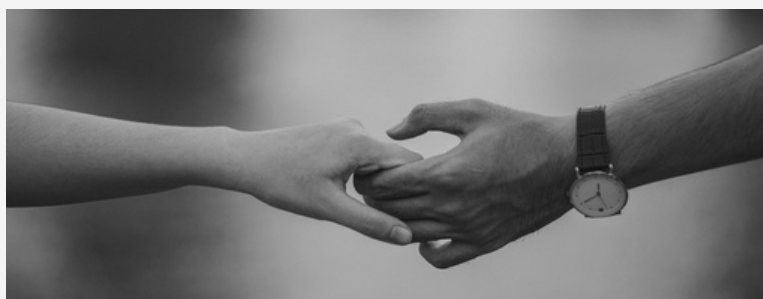
- The Philomena Protocol is in the process of being refreshed and re-launched in conjunction with Children's Services.
- Warwickshire Police make Operation Encompass referrals to schools for children affected by domestic abuse, children reported missing and children affected by the peer-to-peer sharing of indecent images.
- Warwickshire Police has implemented Operation Guarding to improve how the force responds to the peer-to-peer sharing of indecent images of children.
- The Trafficking and Exploitation team and other police teams play an active part in the Local Contextual Safeguarding Meetings.
- The Prevention Unit came online in the Autumn of 2023, the team have the ambition to work upstream to prevent harm from occurring and escalating.

## PRIORITY 3 - Effective Safeguarding

### Matters Post Pandemic

Partner agencies are no longer impacted by the pandemic, in as much that there is no barrier to completing normal duties, however, there remains a number of factors that continue to raise concerns, have not returned to pre-pandemic levels and are impacting on the wellbeing and future prospects of children, as well as demands upon services. For example...

- School attendance had not returned to pre-pandemic levels, and we know that school attendance is a key safeguarding indicator. Poor school attendance will also have longer term impacts on examination results and future life opportunities.
- The rise in emotional and mental health issues for teenagers. We have seen significant rises in self-harm and suicidal ideation, which has resulted in an increase in the number of adolescents having to be accommodated in therapeutic residential units. It has also placed significant pressure on acute hospital beds and community services.
- The cost-of-living crisis does also appear to have increased demand on services. In April 2023 we had 3,563 children open on a child in need basis, at the end of March 2024 the number was 3,798. The cost-of-living crisis is also likely to be at least part of the reason for a rise in child protection numbers over the year from 309 at the end of March 2023 to 366 at the end of March 2024.
- We do see in our practice the pressures the cost-of-living crisis is putting upon families, for example a greater reliance upon foodbanks and mental health challenges for adults.





## Vulnerable Adult Risk Management (VARM) Guidance

### Introduction

The Partnership have agreed an adult centred multi-agency process to facilitate the management of cases with adults who are deemed to have capacity and make decisions for themselves and are experiencing an unmanageable level of risk that:

- Does not relate to abuse or neglect by a third party.
- That could lead to imminent serious harm, death, or injury (including emotional/psychological).

Circumstance examples that could lead to convening a VARM:

- Self-neglect
- Home presenting as a fire risk with lack of escape route
- Refusal & non-engagement with care & support services
- Frequent missing episodes
- Drug & alcohol dependence combined with other complexities or risk taking behaviour

### What happens in a VARM meeting?

Meetings are led by the referring agency. The aim of the meeting is to undertake a multi-agency risk assessment to:

- Identify the risks with the adult and convene multi-agency discussion with the adult/their advocate.
- Agree and monitor agency responsibilities, actions and timeframe to sufficiently manage risks.





### **What to Expect Leaflet**

VARM meetings are adult centred, and the adult must understand why a meeting has been arranged. The WSP have produced a 'What to Expect' Leaflet. This provides opportunity for practitioners engage and support the adult to contribute to the VARM discussions by writing their views, wishes and feelings. The leaflet is shared and discussed with the adult at the start of the process.

### **How do I complete a referral form?**

Practitioners have been supported too. Guidance for the referring agency has also been developed. The expectation being that in support of the referral they should gather proportionate & relevant information for the VARM referral summary form, ensuring that the voice of the adult is reflected in the recording. The document will then go to be approved by a line manager prior to circulation. The WSAB is thereafter contacted for a reference number. Once received, the lead agency can begin to convene a multi-agency meeting. Practice guidance & meeting templates are available to help facilitate this.

### **Useful information**

The VARM framework, information, tools and templates to guide professionals to facilitate an effective multi-agency meeting can be found via this link on the: [Warwickshire Safeguarding Website](#)

## **Pica Awareness**

The WSP produced a range of tools to raise awareness of the causes of Pica to adult and children safeguarding practitioners.

**What is pica?** Pica refers to eating objects that are inedible such as stones, coins, shampoo, clothing and cigarette butts. Children and adults may eat one specific inedible object, or lots of different ones.

**What are the risks?** Whilst some objects pass through the body without harm, pica can potentially be life threatening. Risks include vomiting, constipation, infections, blockages in the gut and intestines, choking and poisoning. Sometimes surgery is needed to remove objects from the gut or to repair damaged tissue.

Practitioners were asked to be alert to the risk and if worried about a child or adult who has eaten an inedible object that this is responded to without delay. Where there is suspected risk of Pica sharing of information and gathering of information to inform assessment and safety planning is promoted amongst the agencies involved with the adult or child.



### What causes pica?

The specific causes of pica are not clear, but some conditions can increase the chance that a child or adult will develop pica. These are:

- learning disabilities
- autism
- diet lacking in iron or zinc
- pregnancy

It is estimated that up to a quarter of children and adults with a learning disability display pica behaviour. The more severe a child or adult's learning disability, the greater the chance that they will display pica behaviour.

## VOICE OF THE CHILD/ADULT

### Advocacy

Local authorities have a duty to arrange for an independent advocate to be available to represent and support certain persons (Children and adults) for the purpose of facilitating those persons' involvement in the exercise of functions by local authorities. Advocacy is a process of supporting and enabling people to:

- Express their views and concerns
- Access information and services
- Defend and promote their rights and responsibilities; and
- Explore choices and options

During 2023-2024, Warwickshire continued to support the following number of individuals through advocacy services enabling their voices to be heard and their views to be considered:

| Children's Advocacy                                                                   | Number of Young People |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Total Referrals Received                                                              | 189                    |
| Total Referrals Declined                                                              | 15                     |
| Total Annual Case Number<br>(open cases at year start plus<br>accepted new referrals) | 235                    |



| Adults<br>Advocacy                     | Year 5 Q4<br>Apr-Jun<br>2023 | Year 6 Q1<br>July - Sept<br>2023 | Year 6 Q2<br>Oct - Dec<br>2023 | Year 6 Q3<br>Jan - Mar<br>2024 | Total |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Care Act<br>Advocacy<br>(ICAA)<br>S.67 | 52                           | 53                               | 40                             | 47                             | 192   |
| Care Act<br>Advocacy<br>(ICAA)<br>S.68 | 14                           | 12                               | 6                              | 17                             | 49    |
| Care Act<br>Advocacy<br>(ICAA)<br>S.67 | 52                           | 53                               | 40                             | 47                             | 192   |

## MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL

'Making Safeguarding Personal' (MSP) is an approach to Safeguarding that aims to ensure that the Person (adult at risk) and/or their advocate in relation to the safeguarding enquiry, are fully engaged and consulted throughout and that their wishes and views are central to the final outcomes as far as is possible. During the course of 2023- 2024 Warwickshire concluded **374** s42 safeguarding enquiries of these:

**209** individuals/their representatives expressed their views and desired outcomes

**22** individuals/their representatives did not wish to express their views and desired outcomes.

**97** of the concluded s42 enquires recorded that the individual's outcomes had been fully achieved.

**74** of the concluded s42 enquiries recorded that the individual's outcomes had been partially achieved.

**19** of the concluded s42 enquiries recorded that the individual's outcomes had not been achieved.



# HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

## What do audits and self-assessments tell us about safeguarding practice?

Safeguarding Audits are a brilliant way to check that current safeguarding policies and practices are effective and whether there are any gaps, risks, and areas for improvement.

Section 175 Audit – Schools Safeguarding Audit What is Section 175? Section 175 of the 2002 Education Act requires local education authorities and the governing bodies of maintained schools and FE colleges to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has historically undertaken an annual section 175 audit of schools and colleges to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.

- Leadership and Management The vast majority of responses suggests governing bodies are aware of KCSIE (Part 1) and Ofsted guidance on Safeguarding and that they have effective oversight of relevant policies, procedures, and training. Policies and Procedures
- Overall, settings showed a very high level of confidence that safeguarding policies have been reviewed and ratified by key stakeholders in the last 12 months and all, but a few had updated The Staff Behaviour/Code of Conduct Policy. Training and Monitoring From
- 86% last year, 91.2% of settings in 2023 considered safeguarding training to be 'regularly reviewed throughout the year'. This is positive but over 8% may still only reference safeguarding once per year, so this message needs continued emphasis. Mental Health Whilst there was a high proportion of schools (86% - up from 85% last year) considering themselves established as having a mental health lead / first aider. Records and
- Reporting – Reflective Supervision and Staff Well-being - In the vast majority of schools, staff feel like they are consulted and consideration for the views of staff, but in a small
- proportion of schools, staff feel that their views are unlikely to be listened to. Many schools do not have supervision in place to support the wellbeing of leaders involved in safeguarding. However, more schools are accessing support from the headteacher coach and the Education Lead.
- 

All audits are available to be scrutinised by the WSP, and their outcomes and relevant recommendations are reviewed and monitored for assurance that learning continues to be acted upon and implemented into safeguarding practice.



## Single Agency Assurance

### Adult Services

Social Care and has a regular programme of audits and these have continued to demonstrate:

- Immediate risks are understood and actions taken where necessary
- Concern decision making is done in a timely and appropriate way
- Work is person centred and strength based
- That practitioners consider mental capacity
- That people are asked about what they want to achieve in line with Making Safeguarding Personal

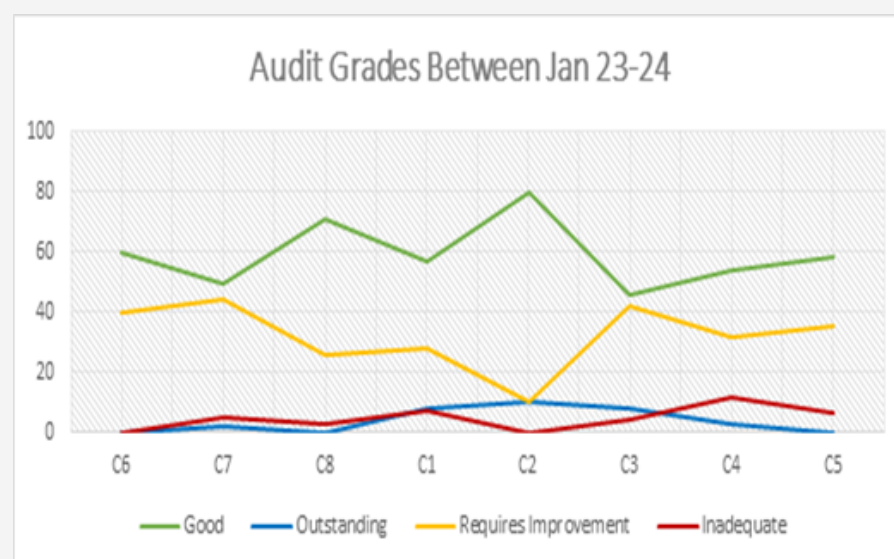
The audit tool used has been improved and strengthened.

Live data dashboards have been developed which help us to understand the volumes of work and outcomes and these have been and will continue to be reported to the Safeguarding Partnership. This data shows that 82% of people were asked what outcomes they wanted and just over 90% of people felt safe or safer, at the end of the work with them.

The data shows that very few people were aware of the referral or had consented to it so this will need to be an area we focus on in future.

### Children Services

Between Jan 23 to Jan 24 most audits were graded good (approximately 60%) which is positive, however there are a significant number of audits that are graded as requires improvement (approximately 40%). Audits graded inadequate and outstanding represent the smallest percentage and ranges between approximately 0 to 10% across the cycles.





## Themes arising from practice audits

The challenges and audit findings have identified similar issues as those being raised in learning reviews, CSPR's and some complaints which include improvements in: chronologies,

- The use of chronologies and genograms,
- Asking and Listening to the voice of child,
- Regular and reflective management oversight,
- Ensuring children's plans and outcome focused
- The application of the multiagency escalations process where there are differences of opinion in the progression of work with children and their families.

## Warwickshire Police

In 2023 the force was subject of a HMICFRS Child Protection Post Inspection Review, following the initial inspection in 2022. The inspectors considered how the force had responded to the Areas for Improvement (AFIs) identified during the initial inspection, the inspectors commented: 'Warwickshire Police has committed considerable time, resources and energy to improving outcomes for children and making changes in line with our recommendations'. The Inspectors found there were still AFIs in relation children reported missing, children detained in custody, sharing of information with partners (in the case of incidents assessed as being standard risk) and in relation to the timely sharing of information in relation to online abuse. The force was also advised to improve its response when the public report grooming or image sharing. This had not been an area explored during the initial Child Protection Inspection, it was explored as a result of the findings of a national thematic inspection published in April 2023: An inspection of how well the police and National Crime Agency tackle the online sexual abuse and exploitation of children - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services ([justiceinspectorates.gov.uk](https://justiceinspectorates.gov.uk))

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## **WSP Assurance Activity**

WSEB Assurance visit to Front Door – The Executive Board partners from across Health, the Local Authority and Police undertook an assurance review of the Warwickshire Front Door and MASH in 2023 to benchmark how local agencies in Warwickshire are working together to respond to the identification of initial need and risk to children; and to create a clearer line of sight between senior leaders and frontline practitioners. This included a review of the existing pathways and processes which was able to identify areas of good working practice, as well as flagging areas which needed some further development.

Observations – DREAMM provides a good forum for sharing information and having daily oversight of children who remain missing. Chaired by a very efficient, passionate social care professional who clearly has good relationships with the partners and has a clear grip on children of concern, which must increase partner confidence. Live Case Note recording of issues discussed – checked out with partner agencies in real time.

We continue to learn with our partners areas of good practice and gaps in multi-agency working by our dedicated Service Manager and Lead Practitioner engagement and attendance at CSPRS, panels, practitioner events, safeguarding subgroup. We actively participate and challenge ourselves and partners constructive through our DHR, CDOP and critical incident meetings.



## WHAT OUR PRACTITIONERS HAVE SAID ABOUT THE SAFEGUARDING SYSTEM

It feels very worthwhile and satisfying to be part of safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our community. I do feel however that the level of support we receive from partner agencies can sometimes vary greatly day to day.

Professionally, I get a good sense of purpose and feel that I really do effectively contribute to the safeguarding of vulnerable people. It's an area of work from which I get a sense of achievement.

Stressful due to demand but rewarding as working with outstanding partners.

I feel that the system on the whole works well and can be rewarding and allow us to make a difference.

"It's very rewarding knowing you are part of a system which safeguards the most vulnerable in our communities, however can also be stressful managing the risks involved."

As an organisation we welcome the proactive commitment to information sharing and joint working enabled by the innovative approach pioneered in Warwickshire.

"Being co-located together in the Exploitation team with the Police and our colleagues from Barnardo's and Youth Justice gives us a real strength in our approach. We all share a common purpose and work closely together as one team to disrupt exploitative situations and support the young people to keep them safe. It is a major contributory factor to the success of our work in doing so. We're all in one location so can share information and intelligence and take coordinated action quickly and more efficiently. We have built good relationships and understand each other's roles and have an appreciation of what we can achieve together. Our approach is held in high regard nationally and we believe it is a model for success to build upon strengthening the multi-agency safeguarding system in Warwickshire."



## IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS

### Child Study Overview:

- Nov 2023 - NRM referral received from Warwickshire police for 1 young person (Child A) from the north of the county relating to concerns of criminal exploitation in the form of drug supply. At the same time the information police had in relation to Child A was also linked to Child B whose case had a negative CG(Conclusive Grounds) decision made in August 2023 due to lack of information and not being able to link part A and part C to evidence modern slavery. Child B's case was taken back to panel for a reconsideration of the new information held.
- Dec 2023 – NRM referrals received from Warwickshire police for a further 3 young people (Child C, Child D and Child E) linked to the same potential suspect of Child A and Child B. Cases were discussed at first panel meeting and positive RG decisions were served to Child C, Child D and Child E. This was due to further information being required by panel members.
- Additional panel was arranged for Jan 24 to make CG decisions to Child C, Child D and Child E. Police provided real time updates and details in the timescale provided.  
Outcome:
  - Child A received positive RG (Reasonable Grounds) and CG at initial meeting.
  - Child B received positive CG at third meeting (reconsideration).
  - Child C, Child D and Child E received positive RG at initial meeting and positive CG at second meeting.
- Suspect arrested and disruption in place. All 5 young people referred to the ICTG service and were visited by both police and children's services to ensure safeguarding was in place and debriefs completed.

### What worked well?

- Early identification of the victims from police intelligence work.
- Safeguarding was approached as a multi-agency team and referrals made.
- Real time updates from police which were fed into the panel meetings. This enabled panel members to make efficient decisions with no delays.

**What has happened:**

Child X was transferred to be supported by FAST in 2023 after moving to the Warwickshire area from OLA in Jan 2023. Child X was new to the area after moving to Warwickshire due to contextual safeguarding concerns (including gang association) and was at risk of missing episodes and child exploitation. Child X previously attended an Academy however due to safety concerns they were no longer able to attend this resulted in Child X moving to Warwickshire with no safe and accessible school place, increasing their exposure to exploitation and heightening concerns. This therefore left Child X at home and not accessing education coming up to going into Year 11. Support was provided to Child X and family to apply for schools and support with a smooth transition into a new mainstream school place.

**Action taken:**

The Education worker was assigned to support Child X from an Education perspective in Feb 2023 and the following support was provided:

- Explore and explained the education system in applying to schools to parents and professionals supporting the family (Feb 2023)
- Liaise with EIP to explore options of education (March - April 2023)
- Advocate for Child X at Fair Access Panel (March - April 2023)
- Held professionals' meetings with new receiving school for Child X (April – June 2023)
- Supported professionals and family to visiting school and providing a smooth transition to new school (June 2023)
- Helped support to build a positive working relationship between school, FAST and family.

**Outcome:**

Child X is now on school roll at School and is attending and doing well. Their attendance has been high, and school feel as though they have transitioned well. The Family is happy with the support offered from school. Child X's extra familiar harms and contextual safeguarding concerns have significantly reduced and are understood and appreciated by school and they are able to support with ensuring school is a positive and protective factor.



### **What those with lived experience have said about the services they receive...**

J said 'my old workers just wanted to tell me what to do all the time and told me all the things I was doing wrong. The new team I have actually made a bond with, and they actually want to help us. They set me little targets and then help me reach them. I had shut off from all workers after the last team, so they had to work hard to get to know me but now I actually like seeing them. They got me back into school and I feel really good about that!.' (Feedback from young person and parent)

'Mum and maternal grandmother have shared what a positive experience they have had working with both the allocated FSW and (EHSW). Mum would not have even considered accessing support previously and she has now managed to access services that the EH team have supported her with. Mum has also started to be open and honest about her struggles with alcohol and has admitted it is a problem which is a massive step. Mum has had the confidence to independently reach out to AA.'





# LEARNING FROM SAFEGUARDING REVIEWS

## Joint Safeguarding Review Group

**Chair: Jackie Channell, ICB**

The Safeguarding Review Group is a significant sub-group of the WSP Executives. The group is chaired by an Executive member and is responsible for receiving referrals and coordinating reviews in relation to serious child and adult safeguarding incidents. Warwickshire Safeguarding Partnership have a legal duty to undertake reviews of:

- Children - where the child has died or suffered serious harm, the criteria for such reviews is set out in Working Together 2018 updated in Dec 2023.
- Adults with care and support needs - where the adult has died because of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, or is still alive but has experienced serious abuse or neglect, and there is reasonable cause for concern about how agencies worked together to safeguarding the adult. The criterion for such reviews is set out in the Care Act 2014 (See Care Act Guidance 2016).

The WSP delegate this function to the Safeguarding Review Group who undertake:

- a 'Child Safeguarding Practice Review' for children 0-18yrs and up to 25 years if they are care leavers and
- 'Safeguarding Adults Reviews' for adults who are 18+ yrs.

These reviews are expected to show where things might have been done differently and what lessons can be learned to prevent similar incidents from happening to children, young people, and adults in the future.

## Referrals received throughout 2023-2024

### Number of referrals for review

**Children** = 8 Child Safeguarding

Practice Review referrals

**Adult** = 5 Safeguarding Adult  
Review referrals

### Number of referrals progressed to Review in 2023- 2024:

**Children** = 7 Child Safeguarding  
Practice Review & 3 Single

Agency Reviews

**Adult** = 1 Alternative Learning  
Review

| Name of District/Borough Council | Child Referral (Progressed to review) | Adult Referral (Progressed to review) |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Nuneaton and Bedworth            | 4 (4)                                 | 3 (1)                                 |
| North Warwickshire               | 2 (2)                                 | 0                                     |
| Rugby                            | 0                                     | 0                                     |
| Stratford upon Avon              | 0                                     | 0                                     |
| Warwick                          | 2 (1)                                 | 2 (0)                                 |



## Examples of Cross-Cutting Themes From Reviews

### Professional Curiosity

This has arisen where information has been received by some agencies, but it has been seen in isolation and led to missed opportunities to fully understand an individual or family's situation and what might be needed to support them.

The Learning for practitioners ensuring the combination of looking, listening, asking direct questions, checking out including with other agencies and reflecting on information received to inform decisions on need risk and support and interventions

### Disguised Compliance

Some individuals were able to divert attention from what was happening within their family through appearing to be co-operative and providing practitioners and agencies with the information requested.

The learning for practitioners is to ensure all information shared by families is checked out or validated and not taken at face value as part of their continuous evidenced based assessment of families.

### Poor Use of Escalation Process

Reviews have highlighted how in some cases there is a lack of escalation and / or where professionals have attempted to escalate concern have not always been resolved as expected. A follow-up assurance activity has since been undertaken to understand what the barriers are for the use of escalations.

The learning for practitioners is to ensure:

- the WSP escalation process is understood and adhered to, be
- clear on the outcome to be achieved for the child or adult,
- ensure the timeliness and, where the matter is not resolved that it is brought to the attention of their manager or supervisor.

### Self-Neglect

- There was limited evidence of a multi-agency approach.
- agencies were not clear about their role and the roles of other agencies
- limited evidence of mental capacity assessments
- professionals did not explore why the individuals were rejecting assessments and support
- assessments did not reflect all risks and the historical context that was known

The learning for the WSP resulted in the:

- development of the Vulnerable Adults Risk Management framework (VARM) and
- significant training and development in all areas for improvement identified in the review.



## How we take learning from reviews forward

- Partner agency actions are progressed, with monitoring and oversight on all review actions is reviewed by the sub-group.
- The production of lessons learnt briefings which summarise the incident which has been reviewed and highlights the key good practice and learning – this is also provided to partner agency training leads to support them in reflecting lessons within single agency training.

During 2023-2024 we published the review reports/lessons learnt briefings on:

- [Fara - Report & Lessons Learned](#)
- [Anna - Report & Lessons Learned](#)
- [Simon - Report & Lessons Learned](#)
- [Self-Neglect Thematic Report](#)
- [Self-Immolation Thematic Review](#)

7-minute briefings in relation to:

[Mental Health Sections](#)

[Home Invasions – Spot the Signs](#)

[The Mental Capacity Act](#)

[Think Family](#)

[Child Sexual Exploitation](#)

In addition, we revised/published the following Procedures:

- [Missing Children Protocol](#)
- [VARM](#)
- *Updating training to reflect learning, including a section in relation to learning from reviews within the [WSP Training](#).*
- *Presentation of themes at the joint Safeguarding Partners meeting held twice yearly including a request for partner to disseminate and embed learning internally.*





## Warwickshire Child Safeguarding Practice Review

### **SIMON's Story:**

Simon came from a family where English was not their first language, however Simon was fluent in English and was sometimes relied upon by professionals to translate information for his parents. At the age of 15, Simon suffered a brain injury, which is said to have affected his behaviour and he struggled with his mental health. The following year, Simon made a significant attempt to end his life and was treated in hospital. Simon became an inpatient in hospital under section 2 and 3 of the Mental Health Act 1983 and Simon and his family were supported by a child in need (CiN) plan. Shortly after his discharge, Simon's mental health deteriorated, and he was detained under again Mental Health Act. During this period, Simon alleged that he had been the victim of a serious sexual assault but was deemed too unwell to be spoken to by Police at the time. Simon continued to struggle with his mental health, and he would present at the local hospital stating that he felt unsafe and had suicidal ideation. At his next routine mental health appointment, Simon disclosed feeling unsafe at times and had thoughts to harm himself but had no plans to do so. The agreed plan was to increase his medication and steps were taken to remove anything from the family home that Simon could use to harm himself. Later that day Simon's family and those working with him were unable to make contact with him and it was later discovered that Simon had sadly taken his own life. **[Click here to read Simon's story and lessons identified from this review](#)**

## Warwickshire Safeguarding Adult Review

### **ANNA's Story:**

Anna had been known to Children's Services throughout her life. Her childhood had been marked by poor home conditions, the suicide of her sibling, the problematic drinking of her parents and domestic abuse. In addition, her mother suffered from emotional ill health and made multiple suicide attempts. Anna had extensive involvement with multiple agencies, including health services. Anna suffered a range of long-term physical health issues which caused her a high level of pain, affected her mobility, and resulted in her taking strong medication. Anna struggled with her mental health and would have episodes of self-harm and made several attempts to take her own life. At the age of 18, Anna was diagnosed with Emerging Personality Disorder. In her teens, Anna became a mother to her daughter Ella Rose and both were placed in a mother and baby Foster Care placement. Anna was described as a loving mother and Ella Rose was a happy child; however, Anna struggled to maintain the living conditions at the family home that she shared with her partner, Ella Rose and their many pets and provide adequate care for Ella Rose. Subsequently, Ella Rose was placed on a Child in Need plan. This was eventually stepped down to Early Help following Anna making improvements to the condition of the home and ongoing stability provided by Ella Rose's father, Anna's partner and Ella Rose's paternal grandparents. After initially making improvements to the home conditions and presentation of Ella Rose, Anna was unable to maintain this, and concerns were raised that led to agencies becoming involved with the family again. Anna agreed for Ella Rose to stay with a family friend whilst she cleaned the property. Sadly, Anna took her own life a week later.

**[Click here to read Anna's story and lessons identified from this review](#)**



## MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING TRAINING OFFER

The WSP delivered an extensive training programme during April 2023 - March 2024, supported through the shared expertise of the safeguarding partners. We are grateful to members of the partnership that have delivered briefing sessions and training to benefit the wider partnership and our children, adults and families.

| Course Title                                                                  | No of delegates |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Vanguard: Social Prescribing and its use in Trauma Informed Practice          | 41              |
| Vanguard: Building Relationships                                              | 50              |
| Professional Curiosity                                                        | 108             |
| Vanguard: The Psychology of Victim Blaming                                    | 17              |
| Vanguard: Safeguarding through Trauma Informed Lens                           | 68              |
| Hoarding Awareness                                                            | 21              |
| Vanguard: Engaging with children who have experienced child sexual abuse      | 31              |
| Vanguard: Victim Blaming and Language                                         | 41              |
| Using the Mental Capacity Act in the context of Safeguarding and Self-Neglect | 52              |
| Integrated Children and Families Front Door & what makes a good referral      | 44              |
| Fire Safety Awareness                                                         | 8               |
| Young People & Relationship Abuse                                             | 24              |
| Mind Your Language                                                            | 8               |
| Role of the LADO                                                              | 9               |
| Vanguard: Introduction to Trauma                                              | 8               |
| Vanguard: Vicarious and Organisational Trauma                                 | 21              |
| Learning from safeguarding reviews                                            | 20              |



## Feedback from Training

### Integrated Front Door & How to Make a Good Referral

- Helpful to know the different roles the 3 hubs play and importance of parental consent when making a referral. The training was
- informative and covered a well-rounded view of the front door and referrals, still with time for questions. It was brilliantly delivered.

### Hoarding Awareness

- Really interesting training. I learnt a lot. It's a subject that I have never attended training for before, so thank you.
- Training was excellent and very informative.
- Using the MCA in the Context of Safeguarding and Self-Neglect was a very informative training and awareness and processes of MCA.
- Excellent presentation and very engaging.

### Professional Curiosity

- I felt this training was invaluable, especially to myself as we are recommencing home visits. I think it should be available on the hospital training section. I train midwives/support workers regularly. This is something I will be recommending they all undertake.
- Really insightful training which I have recommended to colleagues to attend, helped me re-think how I can approach certain circumstances and also the way professionals view mum / dad absences and how we should see both as a concern not just mum absence. The trainer had such wonderful knowledge about the subject and could answer any question. Enjoyed the training.

### Vanguard: Trauma Informed Training

- It was a good introduction to make you think holistically about a client and yourself.
- Very interesting and can relate to the training - so glad Vicarious and Organisational Trauma is recognised. Very good awareness.
- Very interesting and can relate to the training - so glad Vicarious and Organisational Trauma is recognised. Very good awareness.
- The training was just the right length to get you thinking about the implications of trauma for the organisation.



## FORWARD PLANNING 2024-2025

In October 2023 Warwickshire Children Services informed the WSP that they had applied to the DoF for wave 2 of the Families First for Children pathfinder (FFC Pathfinder) programme. Where the application is successful this would mean significant reform to children's social care, early help, and the multiagency safeguarding arrangements. In March 2024 Children Services notified the WSP of the successful outcome of their bid. In achieving Pathfinder status, the WSP Executives took the decision that the WSP would need to be restructured. An uncoupling of the joint arrangements was proposed to enable the Safeguarding Children Partnership to focus on the reforms, this also provided an opportunity for the Safeguarding Adults Board to reset its focus and priorities. This report therefore will be the last full year report of the joint safeguarding arrangements of WSP.

Moving forward in 2024-2025 – The focus of the WSP will be to maintain the status quo regarding the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect for children, adults, and their families. This will include:

- *Completing the revision to the children and adults Exploitation Strategy*
- *Continue to strengthen the effectiveness of multiagency safeguarding practice and the Early Help offer.*
- *Progress preparation for the uncoupling of the WSP to reinstate a separate Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) and Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB).*

A strategic focus for both partnership moving forward will be to develop an approach to measure the impact and outcome of what the children and adults' partnerships do. It is recognised that we must do more to incorporate the views of those with lived experience in the design, plan and review of the multi-agency arrangements and ensure we consistently measure how our safeguarding activity is making a difference to positive outcomes and lived experiences of children, young people adults with care and support needs and their families.





Warwickshire  
Safeguarding

