

HSCP Yearly Report 2024-25

Overview presentation

21 October 2025

Implementing Working Together 2023

- Introduced the **Lead Safeguarding Partners Group** – joint with Worcs
- Established the **Partnership Chair** for the multi-agency arrangements, which in 2024-25 was the Director of Children's Services.
- Reviewed the plan for **Independent Scrutiny**
- Strengthened links with **voluntary and community organisations** by increasing representation on HSCP sub groups
- Increased **representation and engagement with education** - Safeguarding in Education Group and education representative on the Safeguarding Partners Board
- Agreed local pathway for **notifications upon the death of a care leaver** (18 – 24 years)

Quality Assurance Activity

Creation of multi-agency dataset – quarterly multi-agency discussion

The dataset is based on 12 strategic themes:

- Referrals and contacts
- Strategy meetings and S47s
- Child Protection
- Multi-agency meetings
- Children in care
- Achieving outcomes
- Agency pressures
- Partnership activity
- Leadership
- Neglect
- Right Help Right Time
- Exploitation

Quality Assurance Activity

Multi-agency audits:

- **Pre-birth practice** including the service provided when parents are care experienced
- Successful reintegration into an education setting for children who have been **electively home educated**
- Observations of **Strategy Meetings**
- Observations of **Review Child Protection Conferences**

Voice of Children and Families

Children's Services feedback questionnaire - views on how the partnership worked together:

Feedback from 109 families (March 2025):

37% thought professional worked "Fairly well"

44.5% stating "Very well"

Voice of Children and Families

- Feedback sought on – HSCP Engagement Framework, Think Family, Home Conditions Tool
- Direct Work with Children and Young Person course (co-produced and delivered with young people)

“I took a lot from the young peoples experiences and how they received certain write up styles”

- Children & young people part of recruitment for Independent Scrutineer and Business Manager
- [Voice of the Child Toolkit](#) (2022)

Learning from Serious Incidents

1 Serious Incident and a Rapid Review completed, most learning has been implemented with some still in progress

Continued to implement learning from LCSPR “Child HN” (published 2024)

Decision to commission joint HSAB/HSCP Independent Review on the death of vulnerable young people.

Learning and Development

Restorative Practice – launch event and multi-agency courses (197 attended)

Publication and promotion of “**Think Family**” approach

HSCP multi-agency courses – **1540** attendees

Practitioner Forums –

- April 2024 (87 attended)
- October 2024 (62 attended)

Learning and Development

3-months post-course feedback:

“Helped me understand the lived experience of the children I am working with and the recognition and level of neglect. I have used the neglect screening toolkit in practice which was very helpful to support referrals” [Understanding Child Neglect]

*“Using a trauma lens to analyse and help formulate plans”
[Principles of Principles and Foundations of Trauma Informed Practice]*

Get Safe Approach to Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

Get Safe approach introduced in 2023-24 – multi-agency response to child exploitation and contextual safeguarding risks.

Positive impact evident in 2024-25:

Feedback from young people and parents/carers –

- SAFE team provide an excellent support that allows them to feel heard and valued. Positive interventions that kept children and young people safe outside of the home and in online spaces.

Ofsted monitoring visit October 2024:

“Most children vulnerable to exploitation risks who come to the attention of children’s services are promptly identified. For these vulnerable children, collaboration and timely information-sharing between partners has improved, which is helping to protect vulnerable children through targeted interventions and/or disruption activity.”

Risks Outside of the Home Conference

164 attendees – 89% said they “learned a lot”

How will you use this information your everyday practice?

“I will use the information from today’s event to better understand individual patient circumstances and lived experiences”

“I will be curious during my visits and support sessions with children and young people; by asking questions and not making assumptions, I will consider appropriate language use”

What part of the event did you find most useful?

“The real life experiences, to hear the stories first hand is incredibly powerful and memorable.”

“I attended all the sessions. Excellent content and all relevant, the personal experiences were all very powerful and informative”.

Contributions of the Safeguarding Partners

- Herefordshire Council
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire NHS Integrated Care Board
- West Mercia Police

In addition, “relevant agencies” are engaged with the partnership’s activities.

Contributions to the partnership in 2024-25:

- Chairing and Vice-Chairing of sub-groups
- provide data for the partnership dataset,
- participate in multi-agency audits, including leading audit exercises,
- provide trainers for the delivery of multi-agency training,
- contribute to case reviews and embedding the learning from reviews,
- actively participate in all partnership sub group meetings and activity – quoracy requires representation from all three safeguarding partners,
- contribute to the partnership budget – in 24/25 LA 59%, ICB 24%, WMP 17%

Impact of Lead Safeguarding Partners

Role of Lead Safeguarding Partners was clarified in WT23.

- Chief Executive of the Council
- Chief Executive of the NHS ICB
- Chief Constable of the police force

Key decisions 24/25:

- Agreed the **Terms of Reference** – geographical footprint, chairing, meeting frequency
- Agreed revised **Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements (2024)**.
- Agreed **HSCP Yearly Report 2023-24**.
- Agreed **plan for Independent Scrutiny** – revised activities in line with WT23.
- Agreed the **partnership budget for 2025/26** and began discussions about **new funding arrangements**.
- Agreed the proposal to develop a **joint Herefordshire and Worcestershire Quality Assurance Group**

Impact of Safeguarding Partners Board

The Safeguarding Partners Board consists of the **Delegated Safeguarding Partners** for the three statutory agencies, and the Independent Scrutineer:

- Director of Children Services – Tina Russell
- Chief Nursing Officer ICB – Kath Cobain
- Superintendent Local Police – Helen Wain
- Independent Scrutineer – Kevin Crompton

Key decisions/activity 24/25:

- Increase **frequency of Safeguarding Partners Board meetings** to six-weekly
- Reviewed and changed sub groups reporting to the Board
- Reviewed the **format and increased frequency of the Quality and Effectiveness Group**
- Oversaw the **implementation of WT23** to completion
- Confirmed the creation of the **Education sub group**
- Received updates and discussed the changes to **the West Mercia Police Harm Assessment Unit (Vulnerability Hub)**
- Agreed the HSCP Chid Neglect Strategy, HSCP Engagement Framework, Think Family Approach, revisions to the Multi-Agency Professional Differences Policy

Impact 2024-25

Performance generally shows better application of thresholds and more in line with Statistical Neighbours

Evidence of **Restorative and Trauma-informed** approaches to working with families (audits, family feedback, multi-agency meetings / professional differences)

Impact of new **Safeguarding in Education Group** – improving understanding of children on EHE and on PTT, input to review of Levels of Need

Leadership and Governance decision-making – strengthened partnership working and effectiveness, and pace of work

Challenges 24/25

- **Right Help Right Time** – consultation with families
- **Think Family** – understanding of application and impact
- **Child Neglect Strategy** – dataset incorporated in multi-agency performance data
- **Child to Adult Transitions Pathway** – limited practice application so far – work continues 25/26

Next steps – 25/26

1. Vulnerable children leaving children's services
2. Think Family
3. Quality Assurance Programme – strengthening three key areas for effectiveness: data, audits and feedback
4. Right Help, Right Time Levels of Need Document – joint development with Worcestershire
5. Restorative Practice
6. Multi-agency Response to Domestic Abuse and its Impact on Children