

Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Safeguarding Spotlight

28 March 2024



WSP Priorities 2023 - 2025:

- **Child Neglect**
- **Child Sexual Abuse**
- **All-Age Exploitation**
- **Self-Neglect and Hoarding**



Neglect Training Update

Book onto the NEW Neglect Training NOW!!!
<https://walsall.event-booking.org.uk/events-list?c=497>



- Level 1 - Neglect Awareness - [e-learning course](#)
- Level 2 - Understanding Neglect - face to face - 1 day training
[You MUST complete Level 1 first]
- Level 3 - Graded Care Profile 2 [GCP2] - face to face - 1 day training
[You MUST complete Level 1 and Level 2 first]

Scan the QR code which will take you to
Walsall Safeguarding Partnership - Learning Management System
to [register](#) or [login](#) to book the Neglect training.



NSPCC

Graded Care Profile 2

MEASURING CARE, HELPING FAMILIES

There's a more effective way to identify neglect

Graded Care Profile 2 is a strength-based tool that helps you assess and measure the quality of care a child is receiving and help you identify when they are being neglected.

Use the tool with families and be quick to spot when child is at real risk.

"100% of staff, who we trained in GCP2, felt better able to assess and analyse neglect."

Stockton Local Authority



To book onto the GCP2 Training please scan the QR code or visit:

<https://walsall.event-booking.org.uk>



You **MUST** have completed Neglect Awareness Level 1 & Understanding Neglect Level 2 prior to booking GCP2 Training.



For more information:
Ness O'Hara - Neglect Lead - Walsall Safeguarding Partnership
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Multi-Agency Audits

Walsall Safeguarding Partnership has a duty to evaluate multi-agency working through case file audits which involves professionals from across the children's and adult's workforce, and in turn, identify themes and trends in order to share learning and recommendations for improvement regarding the quality of practice and service provision.

Multi-Agency Audits will look at and scrutinise multi-agency practice from a random selection of cases to assess the quality of practice and lessons to be learned in terms of both multi-agency and multi-disciplinary practice. The following will underpin the audit process:

- Focus on multi-agency and multi-disciplinary interventions and have a clear focus and clearly defined terms of reference.
- An expectation that all agencies commit to the audit procedures.
- Focus on current practice, considering interventions that have occurred within the last 12 months.
- Consider interventions that are within the remit and work of local agencies.

On the following 4 slides you can view and download some of this past year's audit 7-minute briefings with headline information.

To view all recent multi-agency audit briefings please visit:

[Adults Training and Learning - Learning from Audits](#)
[Children's Training and Learning - Learning from Audits](#)

7

What else?

- ❖ Partners from the CSA delivery group are developing pages on the WSP Website which will provide information and practical support for practitioners and managers.
- ❖ WSP have worked with the Centre of Expertise to develop a programme of CSA training for professionals www.walsall.event-booking.org.uk
- ❖ Look out for forthcoming partnership CSA events publicised in the WSP Spotlight newsletter and Website.
- ❖ **Subscribe to our newsletter for alerts** www.walsallsp.co.uk



1

Why?

- Strengthening the multi-agency identification, response, and prevention of child sexual abuse has been area of focus in Walsall and nationally for several years.
- In June 2023, CSA became a priority within Walsall Safeguarding Partnership recognising the interface with Adults Services particularly when working with victims/survivors.
- In Walsall, partnership working linked to 'Operation Satchel' resulted in the conviction of 21 adults from several families across several generations for CSA.

6

What you can do to improve your practice

- Strengthen your assessment of risk by also understanding the previous addresses, professional involvement with the family, adult/s of concern, other children and historical databases.
- Assessing the origins of possible sexualised behaviours, physical signs, disclosures, retractions in the context of CSA concerns is important.
- The Designated Dr for Safeguarding, ICB has developed a pathway for the [management of anogenital symptoms](#) for children with no disclosure of sexual abuse/assault.
- SARC should be routinely invited to strategy meetings where children are at risk of sexual abuse www.westmidsregionalcypsas.co.uk



2

What did we do?

A 'deep dive' audit of 4 randomly selected children subject to Child in Need, Protection and Looked After plans. In all 4 audits, multi-agency practice was rated as requires improvement with 3 including elements of good practice.

The children were aged 5-15, part of sibling groups and three were female and one male. Two were white/British, one white/British Caribbean and the other from Asian British/Bangladeshi descent.

Agencies and practitioners from Schools, Walsall Healthcare Trust (Health Visiting and School Nursing), G. P's/Primary Care, Children's Social Care, West Midlands Police, Housing, Probation, Sexual Abuse Referral Centre.

5

What you can do to improve your practice

CSA can be a complex area of work. Using individual and group supervision strengthens your ability to reflect, be professionally curious whilst remaining focused on the risks and needs of children.

Consider both the child's views and behaviours when developing an understanding of their lived experience. Working with children and families to understand their history, developing three generational cultural genogram and multi-agency chronologies enables us to evaluate strengths and risks within their immediate and wider network.

Effective multi-agency working results in robust assessments and plans being developed.

4

Areas for Development

In 3 of the 4 audits, missed opportunities to identify and respond to potential early signs of CSA were noted. Improved information sharing both within and across agencies was required to make earlier informed decisions.

Some aspects of multi-agency assessment pathways and tools for assessing risk to children need to be strengthened.

Where professional difficulties or disagreements in decision-making featured, the WSP escalation process was not used.

Improved multi-agency plans and planning required particularly where there were ongoing Police investigations.

3

Good Practice

- All children were appropriately safeguarded from the risk of CSA and overall, effective joint working was evidenced.
- Positive relationship-based engagement with families resulting in effective interventions with children and their parents.
- Evidence of good joined up working particularly between Schools and Children's Social Care.
- Schools were identified as active participants in the planning for all children.

Download your copy

7

What can you do now?

- Understand and work in accordance with the Transitions Toolkit.
- Ensure young people are supported to make decisions, and apply the principles enshrined in the Mental Capacity Act 2005.
- Ensure that young people's views and wishes are central to care planning, and contingencies are in place in the event of care arrangements breaking down.
- Ensure all young people known to services are referred to adult services on their 16th birthday.
- Work to achieve good outcomes with young people through application of strength based, person centred, positive risk taking and trauma informed approaches in practice.
- Be legally literate and understand the context of legal framework for 16 and 17 year olds, ensuring effective transitional risk and safeguarding arrangements are well managed.



1

Background

- The following agencies were requested to take part in the audit:
- Walsall Children's Social Care
 - Walsall Adult Social Care
 - Schools
 - Walsall Healthcare Trust
 - Black Country Integrated Care Board (GPs)
 - West Midlands Police
 - Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (CAMHS)
 - Street Teams (returns for one young person)
 - Housing – whg and Green Square Accord (none known)
 - Youth Justice (none known)

6

Next Steps for the Partnership

- All agencies to review their mechanisms for tracking and reviewing people in transition.
- Launch the Transition Toolkit and Guidance.
- Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Training for Children's social care workforce.
- Adult Services to consider how to meet the independent living needs of young people residing out of borough.
- Develop a Multi-Agency Training Plan.
- Person Centred Planning approach, using PCP accessible tools to support planning and review functions.
- Improve coordination when there are multiple plans for a young person, e.g. EHCP,



2

Aim of the Audit

The scope of this audit was considering young people who were either approaching or had recently had their 18th birthday. The key areas of focus were:

the timeliness of the child's transition process, assessment to inform young person's transition, decision-making and management oversight, the effectiveness of plans, how professionals engaged with the family, and the coordination of multi-agency working.

5

Key Findings

Areas for development:

- Timeliness of referral by Children's Social Care into Adult Social Care and completing the Care Act Assessment
- Legislation and Practice, in particular in relation to MCA Assessment, Best Interests Decision Making and application of COP DoLS for 16 and 17 year olds.
- Contingency and parallel planning being more effectively embedded into the multi-agency plans for young people.
- Management oversight and escalation as required when there is delay / drift.
- Ensuring a trauma informed approach to the way we work with young people and their families through the transition process.

4

Key Findings

Areas of good practice:

- Communication and multi-agency working.
- Practitioners invested time, effort and energy into building meaningful and positive relationships with young people.
- Good partnership working between children and adult services.
- Management and IRO oversight and the transitions panel was seen to be a positive step forward.
- Practitioners at the event were all thoughtful, reflective and caring in their approach to the young people being discussed.

3

Overview

The audit comprised of six young people aged 17 – 18 and the MAA audit tool was adapted to focus on the areas relevant to this cohort. The audit panel was held virtually. On the day of the audit, for each young person considered there was a practitioner reflective discussion first, and then the practitioners met as a group with the audit panel. The audit discussion is a reflective learning exercise, and based on understanding what has worked well in multi-agency practice, what the challenges and areas of learning have been, what could we have done and do differently.

5 of the 6 audits were considered to be requires improvement with one audit graded good.

7 Minute Briefing: Multi-Agency Audit – Adolescents Receiving Support at Level 3 Early Help

Download your copy

7

Recommendations & Next Steps

- LADO webinar and induction programme to be updated and rolled out.
- Practice development work for Level 3 Early Help practitioners focused on understanding and assessing identity, particularly in relation to adolescents.
- CAMHS to complete assurance activity regarding the risk assessment of those children on waiting lists and report to PQA via agency report.
- CAMHS in partnership with wider safeguarding partnership to agree expectations in terms of updating information.
- Scope out potential for agreed upon approach for Family Network meetings for the Early Help partnership.



1

Scope and Purpose

The scope of this audit was consideration of young people aged 13 years and over who at the time of the audit were being supported under Level 3 Early Help Services. Three of the children were open to Targeted Early Help through the Local Authority and for two of the children the lead professionals were Education and Health respectively. There has been multi-agency involvement with key input from Early Help, Children's Social Care, health and education, police and other support agencies. This audit is intended to review current practice and the recommendations, and the action plan from this will be overseen by the multi-agency Early Help Steering Group.

6

Recommendations & Next Steps

- Practice development for practitioners on cultural genogram and chronologies.
- Early Help, Children Services to develop a supervision form for Mosaic.
- School Nursing to undertake assurance activity in relation to their supervisions and fed back to PQA via agency report.
- Training to be developed and delivered in relation to working with families where consent is an issue.
- Promotional work required by school nurse service to ensure all services are clearly aware of the offer and the referral process.



2

This audit included the following specific questions:

1. What have been the strengths and areas of good practice in multi-agency working?
2. What have been the challenges in multi-agency working?
3. What are your reflections as a group specifically on multi-agency working in relation to working with adolescents at Early Help Level 3 and what learning would you take back from this conversation into your practice?
4. What additional feedback would you like to give the panel?

5

Areas for Development

- Ensure we are always thinking family.
- A greater understanding of the child and families' histories.
- To more effectively assess and understand children's identity needs particularly when thinking about adolescence.
- To support practitioners and managers in working effectively with resistance when considering issues of consent.
- Greater awareness is required across the safeguarding system of the school nursing offer and how this can be accessed.
- Consideration of the effectiveness of the oversight of Lead Practitioner roles at Early Help and ensuring that they are meeting the needs of all of the family.

4

Good Practice

- Referrals were generally timely and appropriate and there was a consensus that the families were generally being held at the right threshold for support and there wasn't any evidence at this time of professional challenges around threshold.
- There was evidence of SMART plans that were generally focused on the right level of intervention for the family.
- There was evidence of excellent engagement work with families which resulted in some positive outcomes for the children and families.
- Practitioners spoke strongly about the effectiveness of the inter-agency of relationships and how they supported them in making changes with families.

3

Audit Findings

1 audit was rated as good, 3 audits were rated as requires improvement with features of good practice and 1 was rated as requires improvement.

Agency Involvement

- Walsall Early Help 0-19
- Walsall Children's Social Care (one known)
- Schools
- Walsall Healthcare Trust
- Black Country Integrated Care Board (GPs)
- West Midlands Police (Children's Services)
- Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (CAMHS)
- Housing – whg and Green Square Accord (none known whg and no returns GSA)
- Street Teams (none known)

7

What you can do now

- Ensure you discuss the safeguarding concern with the adult or their representative and seek consent.
- Ensure you ask the adult and /or their representative about their desired outcomes and record them on the referral form.
- Ensure appropriate multi-agency information sharing happens at the concern stage, including getting back to the referrer for further information where appropriate.
- Ensure you are considering and where necessary applying the MCA, record this information on the form and in records.
- Ensure you understand your role and responsibility to raise safeguarding concerns in an appropriate and timely manner.
- Blue light notifications are followed up and that a chronology of significant events is used to inform the response.

6

Next Steps for the Partnership

- Referring agencies should discuss concern with adult and seek consent, and record in the concern form.
- Review Concerns Referral Form.
- Attention to be given to the provision of Independent Advocacy as part of the wider MAA action plan and Performance Framework.
- Medication management and process for reporting errors to be reviewed.
- Information sharing and evidence of multi-agency working at the initial concern stage to inform threshold decision making.
- Training in Trauma Informed Practice for workers carrying our safeguarding enquiries.

5

Key Findings

Blue light Notifications – there was no clear process in place for managing and reporting on police notifications and patterns of concerns and chronologies not consistently used to inform threshold decision, intervention.

Making Safeguarding Personal – voice of the adult not always evidenced, and more evidence of professional curiosity needed. Better understanding of 'trauma informed practice' where behaviour is language.

Information sharing – good evidence of information sharing not always evidenced, and missed opportunities to gather information at the concern stage, including from referrer and other relevant agencies to better inform decision making re s42(2)

Interface Exploitation and s42 Enquiries – Further guidance required on the pathway and interface for the exploitation panel and s42 enquiries.

4

Key Findings

Inappropriate referral - in three of the cases there was either not enough information contained within the form, basic information missing, incomplete referrals received. Referrer not always clear on process, or what they are trying to achieve by making the referral, in particular case managers.

Safeguarding Concern Referral – in two cases, the referral was inappropriate for safeguarding and may be a training issue so that the threshold for s42 is better understood.

Decision Making – threshold for s42(2) – in two cases, the threshold for s42(2) enquiry was met but not followed through, in one case this related to concern about self-neglect, and another related to a person with mental health needs where the decision was made to end the s42 enquiry without evidence of assessing and managing the risk.

Mental Capacity Act – capacity and consent not always fully considered, or evidence recorded.

3

Overview

The sample comprised of 6 adults which were audited by a number of agencies and an audit meeting took place on the 18 January 2024.

The return information was limited in parts, and it would have been helpful to have had other professionals attend the MAA meeting, e.g. GP, College Rep, Housing Officer.

One case required further action and may meet the threshold for a s44 Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR).

Police information was missing in two of the cases and needed to be followed up after the meeting.

1

Background

An audit on Safeguarding Concerns that did not progress to a S.42(2) Enquiry took place (due to data suggesting this required more interrogation).

The partners who took part in the audit were from:

- Adult Social Care
- Black Country Healthcare Trust
- Walsall Healthcare Trust
- West Midlands Police
- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- GPs

2

Aim of the audit

The Partners responded to the following questions:

- Was there effective application of making Safeguarding personal?
- Was the safeguarding concern discussed with the adult and/ or their representative?
- Did the Concern meet the statutory threshold in accordance with s42(1) Care Act 2014?
- Was the Concern referred and managed in a timely manner?
- Was feedback to referrer, person subject to concern and other relevant parties given the local authority given?
- Where appropriate alternatives offered e.g. s2 Prevention services, s4 IAG, s9 Assessment, s27 Review?
- On reflection, was the decision not to proceed to a s42(2) enquiry appropriate and proportionate?



Training Opportunities



- [WSP Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#)
- [WSP spaces available to book](#) - virtual and face-to-face
- [WSP eLearning](#)
- [VRP Training Dates](#)
- Learning from [Adult Reviews, Audits, Webinars, Briefings](#)
- Learning from [Child Reviews, Audits, Webinars, Briefings](#)

Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Learning Management System (LMS) for training and eLearning

Scan the QR code to access LMS system



Right for Children, Families and Adults

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-- Select Venue --

By Category:

Adults & Children

November 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

To use this booking system, you will first need to **create a user account** and once you have done this, you will be able to manage your own bookings, access course evaluations, certificates and access your training history.

Events & Courses : Adults & Children



Child Exploitation Awareness Training - Virtual

MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023 (11:00 - 12:30)

Venue: Online Course - This session is delivered online using MS Teams/Zoom etc. Your link will be sent 24 hours before training. -

Booking has now closed

More Information & Booking



Child Sexual Abuse Workshop: Spotting the signs and indicators (Face to Face)

- ▶ [Walsall Safeguarding - Learning Management System \(event-booking.org.uk\)](https://event-booking.org.uk)
- ▶ [Delegate Registration \(event-booking.org.uk/register\)](https://event-booking.org.uk/register)



Right for Children, Families and Adults

***Please note we are continually adding courses, so please keep checking for the latest information.**

We still have spaces available on the following WSP Training in April & May

- ❖ Understanding Neglect Level 2: 9 April, 23 April, 2 May, 8 May [Booking Link 9, 23 April, 2, 8 May](#)
- ❖ Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) Training: 24 April [Booking Link 24 April](#)
- ❖ Child Sexual Abuse Workshop - Hearing and Responding to allegations/disclosures and the role of the professional network: 25 April [Booking Link 25 April](#)
- ❖ Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) Training: 30 April, 9 May, 14 May
[Booking Link 30 April](#)
[Booking Link 9 May](#)
[Booking Link 14 May](#)

Other Training

- ❖ Walsall Mental Health & Suicide Prevention - Train the Trainer - Birmingham Mind (for those who have completed the mental health & suicide prevention training in Walsall)
[Booking Link 17 April](#)
[Booking Link 23 April](#)
[Booking Link 21 May](#)
- ❖ Basic Drug Awareness - The Beacon [Booking Link 16 May](#)

Walsall Safeguarding Partnership eLearning

Walsall Safeguarding Partnership also offers a variety of eLearning training courses:

Adults Safeguarding Awareness Level 1

Child Neglect Awareness - Level 1

Female Genital Mutilation: Recognising and Preventing (FGM)

ICON: 'Babies cry, you can cope'

Introduction to Safeguarding Children - Level 1

Private Fostering Module

Understanding Mental Capacity Act - Level 2

Understanding Safeguarding Children - Level 2

To find out more about the eLearning courses and how to book, please visit:

<https://walsall.event-booking.org.uk/elearning-list>

VRP Training Dates: April & May 2024

[West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership Events - 59 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

❖ An Introduction to Adverse Childhood Experiences

[9 April](#) [16 April](#)
[7 May](#) [21 May](#)

❖ Exploitation Webinar

[8 April](#) [22 April](#)
[8 May](#) [22 May](#)

❖ Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention

[3 April](#) [23 April](#)
[14 May](#) [28 May](#)

❖ Working with Trauma in Early Years

[25 April](#)
[23 May](#)

❖ Trauma Informed Practice

[2 April](#)
[1 May](#) [15 May](#)

❖ Serious Violence Duty Briefing

[26 April](#)
[24 May](#)

❖ Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls (EMVAWG)

[24 April](#)
[30 May](#)

❖ Mentors in Violence Prevention

[26 April](#)
[31 May](#)

❖ Change Makers Programme

[26 April](#)
[31 May](#)



Click on the date to register your place or visit: [West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership Events - 59 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

The West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership offers a wide variety of training courses for professionals working throughout the West Midlands. Each course has online dates available every month; but if you are interested in any of the courses for your team or organisation, you can also contact vrp@westmidlands.police.uk to arrange a specific date to suit your needs which can be delivered either in person or online.

Thank you for taking the time to read the WSP Safeguarding Spotlight

If you would like an item to be featured in the next edition,

please send your information through to:

Safeguardingbusinessunit@walsall.gov.uk