

# Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Safeguarding Spotlight

24 May 2024



# WSP Priorities 2023 - 2025:

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



# Child Sexual Abuse

## **Mandatory reporting**

The Government has published its response to the consultation on introducing a mandatory duty in England to report child sexual abuse. It summarises themes arising from consultation responses, sets out proposals for the new duty, and outlines next steps. The Government intends to introduce the duty as an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill.

Read the report: [Government response to Child sexual abuse: mandatory reporting consultation](#)

See the bill: [Criminal Justice Bill, as amended](#) (PDF)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse](#)

> [Mandatory reporting webinars](#)

Attend [CSA training](#)  
available on WSP Learning  
Management System

## **'Self-generated' child sexual abuse material**

Internet Matters has published a report on preventing 'self-generated' child sexual abuse material among 11- to 13-year-olds. The research included a literature review and panel discussions with 11- to 17-year-olds around effective messaging to help deter children from creating and sharing sexual images. Key findings include: many children said there were barriers to learning due to how they were taught about sexual image-sharing in school, with smaller, gender-based group work preferred; and most were supportive of peer learning approaches, learning through games, and learning from those with lived experience on social media.

Download the report: [Preventing 'self-generated' child sexual abuse](#)

# Review of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes

## 3 critical missed opportunities

A review into the tragic death of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes has revealed three crucial 'missed opportunities' that could have potentially changed the fate of the six-year-old, who died at the hands of his birth father and step mother in 2020.

Review identifies three 'critical' missed opportunities in Arthur Labinjo-Hughes murder

[Read the review on Social Work News \(mysocialworknews.com\)](https://mysocialworknews.com)

### Missed opportunity 1

The first missed opportunity identified related to the police response to the emergency duty team's (EDT) request for a welfare check on Arthur, on the night of 16th April 2020.

### Missed opportunity 2

The second missed opportunity relates to the failure by the police to address the evidence in the photograph they received on 18th April 2020 - two days after a home welfare check and a day after a threshold visit by social workers.

### Missed opportunity 3

The third missed opportunity comes when photographs of Arthur's injuries were sent to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub by his grandmother on April 24th - a move which the report says: 'should have triggered professional reflection and an immediate response.'

# NSPCC Learning

The NSPCC Library hosts the National Collection of Case Reviews. Eight case reviews have been added to the collection this month featuring issues including family reunification, medical care neglect, child criminal exploitation and physical abuse.

[Read the Reviews](#)

## **Multi-agency working and information sharing**

Learning from case reviews published between 2017 and 2023, where there were issues around multi-agency working and information sharing.

[Read the briefing](#)

Local Safeguarding Partnerships can help NSPCC to share the learning from case reviews by sending their case reviews to the [Library and Information Service](#).



**NSPCC**  
Learning

**Multi-agency  
working and  
information  
sharing:  
learning from  
case reviews**

April 2024

# 7 Minute Briefing: Professional Curiosity



7

## Things to remember

- Professional curiosity is key to safeguarding children and adults – be interested in the individuals you are working with and fully explore rather than making assumptions. Be aware of your own values affecting judgements.
- Triangulate information you receive. Seek independent confirmation of individuals' accounts and weigh up details from a range of sources and/or practitioners.
- Focus on the need, voice and "lived experience" of the person or family. Ask relevant questions and be 'brave'. Be prepared to have difficult conversations.

6

## Training and support

Reflective practice and regular supervision are ways to support professional curiosity and support professionals to implement this non-judgemental and holistic approach.

More information about our training can be accessed on the [Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Learning Management System](#).

5

## Be self-aware in your practice

Professionals need to have a degree of caution in their judgements and triangulate information. This means seeking independent confirmation of individuals' accounts and weighing up details from a range of sources or practitioners, particularly when there appear to be discrepancies. Professionals need to be aware of their own values without letting them influence their decision making and practice in a way that is non-judgemental and anti-discriminatory.

4

## Having difficult conversations

Professionals need to enquire about the significant people in families' lives that influence them. This may be someone who provides care, or supports the family or individual – for example, another family member, a friend, someone from the community or father of any children and so on. Professionals need to be brave and have what are often difficult or awkward conversations about the issues affecting families. These could be domestic abuse, inadequate housing, self-neglect, social isolation, mental health, drugs and alcohol, or issues between a person and carer.

1

## Professional Curiosity

Professional curiosity is a golden thread through all Safeguarding Partnership learning reviews and audits and is an essential part of safeguarding. Nurturing professional curiosity is a fundamental aspect of working together to keep children, young people and adults safe.

This briefing aims to raise awareness of the need for professional curiosity and advises where and how to access help and support.

2

## What is professional curiosity?

Professional curiosity is the capacity and communication skill to explore and understand what is happening within a family rather than making assumptions or accepting things at face value.

Professional curiosity can require practitioners to think 'outside the box', beyond their usual professional role, and consider families' circumstances holistically. Curious professionals engage with individuals and families through visits, conversations, observations and asking relevant questions to gather historical and current information.

3

## Think Family

A Think Family approach to our safeguarding work with children and adults and their families is essential. When completing assessments, we need to take opportunities to see, feel and recognise risk and enquire deeper. Being open minded and curious will help to make an informed decision about the child's, adult's, or families' lived experiences.

## 7 Minute Briefing: Communication



7

### What can we do to help?

- Choose the best location at the best possible time.
- Speak in the here and now – use present tense.
- Chunk information into smaller pieces – think one idea per sentence.
- Tell people what to do rather than what not to do – negative statements can be more difficult to understand.
- Check understanding at each point – don't say "do you understand", ask "what have we planned", "explain what we have talked about".
- Use concrete words for time – Sunday, rather than yesterday.
- Think about the words you use – does the person know what the words mean? Can you use a simpler word?
- Avoid using hinting, sarcasm, and non-literal language.

6

### Reviewing the placement

All placements are visited and supported by a Supervising Social Worker. Where there are older children in the home, their views are sought on a bi-monthly basis. Their views are also sought, and health and wellbeing reviewed as part of the annual Foster Placement Review.

All Carers have at least one unannounced visit every year.

5

### Signs of difficulty

- Slow, confused or inaccurate responses.
- The person may only respond to part of the question.
- Difficulties with providing information in a logical sequence.
- May find it difficult to give the right amount of information.
- Difficulties remembering times, dates or details of events.
- May use yes/no responses more frequently than you would expect.
- May take information literally or find sarcasm difficult to understand.
- May have difficulties with literacy.
- May repeat back what you have said, but not add their own details.

4

### Social Language

Social language has 3 components:

- The ability to use language for different purposes (greet others, request a pay rise, build relationships),
- The ability to adapt language to meet the needs of the listener or situation (talking differently to a baby versus talking to an adult, being aware of the listener's knowledge of a situation and giving more or less information),
- Following the unspoken rules of conversation (taking turns, standing at the right distance, using volume well, using gestures right for the situation).

These rules are often different across families and cultures.

1

### Communication

Communication is the act of transferring information from one place, person, or group to another. Every communication involves at least one sender, a message, and recipient. This may sound simple, but communication is actually very complex and has a huge impact when it goes wrong.

Clear communication is key to assessing a person's mental capacity. It is included in Principle 2 of the MCA Code of Practice and referred to throughout the code.

2

### Did you know?

Nearly 20% of the population may experience communication difficulties at some point in their lives. 7% of children aged c.5 years have a specific speech language impairment, and a further 1.8% have speech, language and communication needs linked to other conditions such as learning disabilities, autistic spectrum conditions, cerebral palsy etc. Around one third of people will have some level of communication difficulties (called aphasia) following a stroke. 50-90% of people with learning disabilities have communication difficulties. Mental health difficulties can have a significant impact on language and communication skills.

3

### Receptive Language

Receptive language means the ability to understand information. It involves understanding the words, sentences and meaning of what others say or what is read. Receptive language often depends on understanding the context of what is being said, for example, the word "fast" can mean going quickly, however if we talk about being "stuck fast" the word means the opposite.

# Online Safety & Sextortion

The **UK Safer Internet Centre** has developed an online safety resource alongside the Childnet Youth Advisory Board.

The interactive resource "**Reliability Online**" helps to teach children about what they can trust when they are online and covers risks such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated imagery, scams, and body image. It is aimed at young people aged 13 to 16-years-old, but can be adapted for use with older or younger learners.

Access the resource: [New interactive learning resource from Childnet looking at reliability online](#)

Listen to the podcast: [How do we protect teenagers from sextortion scams?](#)

Read the news story: [How can parents protect their children from sextortion?](#)

The **National Crime Agency (NCA)** has issued an alert to schools across the UK about financially motivated sexual extortion or '**sextortion**'. This type of blackmail involves a person being forced into paying money or meeting another financial demand, following a threat to release nude or semi-nude photos of them. The alert explains how to spot signs of this type of abuse and support affected children. Guidance is also included to share with parents and carers.

Read the news story: [NCA issues urgent warning about 'sextortion'](#)



# National Hoarding Awareness Week (13-19 May)

For National Hoarding Awareness Week, the Adult Safeguarding Team held a stall in the main hospital raising awareness of hoarding and its risks.

There was also representation from West Midlands Fire Service to promote Safe and Well visits.

Another successful day raising awareness to Trust Staff!



# Child Neglect Resource Launch Event

You are only required to  
book on one session:

[25 June 2024, AM](#)

[25 June 2024, PM](#)

'BE PART OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE'

## CHILD NEGLECT RESOURCE LAUNCH EVENT

Aims:

• Progress in respect of the Neglect Strategy since the 'See, Hear, Respond' Neglect Conference in May 2023.

• Neglect training & support.

• Speak Pack & consultation regarding the NEW neglect screening tool

• Expectations & responsibilities of practitioners and managers in Supervision.

Tuesday 25th June 2024

Manor Farm Community Association

Morning session: 9.30am - 12.30pm

or

Afternoon session: 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Please only attend 1 of these sessions.



# Partnership

# NEWS



# NWG Network

## National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People



NWG is a charitable organisation formed as a UK network of over 14,500 practitioners who disseminate our information down through their services, to professionals working on the issue of child exploitation (CE) and trafficking within the UK.

Our network covers voluntary and statutory services and private companies working in this field. We offer support, guidance and raise the profile, provide updates, training, share national developments, influence the development of national and local policy informed by practice.

**DID YOU KNOW...WSP are NWG members with up to 1000 available licences?**

If you would like to access this great resource, then send your name and email address to: [safeguardingbusinessunit@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingbusinessunit@walsall.gov.uk)


Working together to inform, educate and prevent child exploitation and abuse throughout the UK.

<https://nwgnetwork.org/>

# Father's Day Stays and Plays @ Walsall Family Hubs





## Celebrate Father's Day at our Dads Stay & Play session

There's no need to book in advance — simply arrive and join in the fun.

 Saturday 15th June 2024

 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

At each Walsall Family Hub:

-  North Family Hub 275 Blakenall Lane, Blakenall, Walsall WS3 1HJ
-  West Family Hub, Ilmington House, Crescent Road, Wednesbury, WS10 8AE
-  South and Central Family Hub, Birchills Street, Walsall, WS2 8NG
-  East Family Hub Silver Court, Walsall, WS8 6HA

  
**Dads come along and join us for a range of free activities for Father's Day**

Dads Stay & Play is an opportunity for dads to turn up with their children to play together and have fun together.

No need to book just turn up.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**10:00-12:00**



At each Walsall Family Hub:

**North Family Hub** 275 Blakenall Lane, Blakenall, Walsall WS3 1HJ

**West Family Hub**, Ilmington House, Crescent Road, Wednesbury, WS10 8AE

**South and Central Family Hub**, Birchills Street, Walsall, WS2 8NG

**East Family Hub** Silver Court, Walsall, WS8 6HA

# Family Hubs website launch

<https://www.walsallfamilyhubs.co.uk/#main>

**Family Hubs website:** a one stop shop for parents to get information advice and guidance on ensuring their babies receive the best start for life. Through combined working with key partners, we have created a digital space for parents to get the information they need in an easily accessible format.

## Welcome to Walsall Family Hubs

A family hub is a place where children, young people and families can go when they need support



We need your help in identifying how we can improve this to ensure service users receive the information they need in a single click.

If we could kindly ask for your feedback and potentially one service user to.

**Please complete the short questionnaire by Friday 31st May 2024**

- **Questionnaire:** <https://forms.office.com/e/fD9qsAhTup>

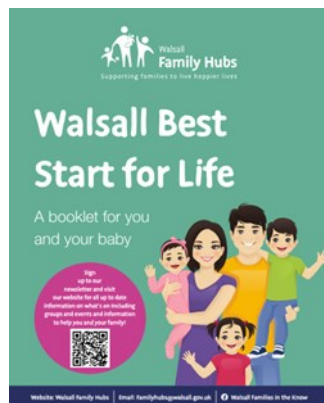
### Best start for life booklet

Our best start for life booklet has been co-produced with key partners such as health, police and partnerships over a period of 6 months to create a guide to direct parents through the antenatal journey through to school age.

The book contains key milestones, information on vaccinations, safety tips and safe sleeping though to your feeding and weaning journey. This information will enable parents the information they need to give their children their children the best start in life at the touch of a hand.

So how will parents get this?

This booklet will be distributed to expectant parents at the early bird 6-8 week clinic. In addition to this electronic versions will be available via the website.



# HAF Summer Delivery 2024

For summer there are 4 weeks of fantastic activities including a healthy meal for each child.

Summer delivery dates are:

- w/c 29/07/24
- w/c 05/08/24
- w/c 12/08/24
- w/c 19/08/24

Parents can start booking on for summer (on the portal): 10th June 2024 @ 10.00am

To register your child onto the Walsall HAF Programme, you must first have an individual HAF code (one for each child). If you would like codes, please email [wr4c@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:wr4c@walsall.gov.uk)



You can do this or use the Walsall HAF QR code, just use the camera on your phone that will take you straight to the Register for HAF 2024 webpage and you are ready to register!!

<https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/holiday-activities-programme-haf>



# Speech & Language Therapy Drop-in advice sessions

Do you have questions about your child's speech or language development?

Are you worried that your child is not talking or does not understand you?

Would you like some advice on general strategies to help?

If you're worried about your child's communication skills and your child is not already known to our service, please come to one of our drop-in sessions for advice and support

Next drop in:

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am - 12 noon

Brownhills Community Centre  
Chester Rd North, Brownhills  
Walsall WS8 7JS

We will be available to talk with those attending Social Tots and Discovery Tots and for anyone else who wishes to pop into the centre for advice.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am – 11am

North Family Hub  
275 Blakenall Heath, Blakenall,  
Walsall WS3 1HJ

We will be available to talk with those attending Chill and Chat and for anyone else who wishes to pop into the centre for advice.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 10.00am – 12 noon

Willenhall Community Library  
1 Walsall Street,  
Willenhall, WV13 2EX

We will be available to talk with those attending Story Tots (10-11am) and for anyone else who wishes to pop into the library for advice.





With 37.7% of Kooth users reporting stress & anxiety, 26% reporting suicidal ideation, and 13% reporting self-harm in your region, it's so important that we work together to raise awareness of the mental health support available to young people.

Take a look at our [promotion hub for GPs and healthcare professionals](#) for our full range of digital resources, including our support guides on anxiety, self-injury, and suicidal thoughts.

For information about tailored, free staff training for your clinic, please complete the [Kooth Healthcare Booking Form](#).

## **Kooth leads to savings in the care pathway**

To quantify the benefits of Kooth to children and young people in economic terms, we worked with York Health Economics Consortium (YHEC) to develop a cost calculator.

The results take into account the cost of Kooth in relation to the averted costs the service leads to, such as:

- Preventing children and young people from being hospitalised due to suicidal ideation or self-harm or preventing arrests for committing crime
- Reducing initial and follow up GP appointments
- Reducing the number of antidepressant prescriptions

To read the research paper now under peer review, [follow this link](#).

# Autism West Midlands Rising to the Challenge

This is a funded course and is offered for free to the parents who have autistic children within the black country and is being held in Walsall town centre.

To book your place:

Email:

[michelleh@autismwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:michelleh@autismwestmidlands.org.uk)



**Rising to the challenge**

**Black Country**

This is a 6 week programme for parents and carers of autistic children which will be led by Autism West Midlands.

The course will help attendees gain a more in depth knowledge of autism and how it impacts the person that you care for.

Our Autism Specialist Advisers will deliver the training and support all attendees.

Mondays  
3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th  
June and  
1st, 8th July 2024

10am -12:30pm

Any parent/carer who resides within the Black Country can attend.

Or register by emailing [michelleh@autismwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:michelleh@autismwestmidlands.org.uk)

# Training Opportunities

- WSP Learning Management System (LMS)
  - ❖ [Walsall Safeguarding - Learning Management System \(event-booking.org.uk\)](http://event-booking.org.uk)
  - ❖ [Delegate Registration \(event-booking.org.uk/register\)](http://event-booking.org.uk/register)
  - ❖ Terms & Conditions – including cancellation charges
  
- Reducing Parental Conflict Training
- Places available to book: WSP – June & July (virtual and face-to-face)
- Places available to book: Other – June & July (virtual and face-to-face)
- VRP Training Dates
  
- WSP eLearning
  
- Learning from Adult Reviews, Audits, Webinars, Briefings
- Learning from Child Reviews, Audits, Webinars, Briefings



# Reducing Parental Conflict Training

Parental conflict whether parents are together or not can have negative outcomes on children's education, relationships, health and can make them more susceptible to radicalisation, criminalisation and exploitation.

By training staff and partners in how to recognise the signs of parental conflict in both children and parents we can make a difference to children's lives and prospects.

RPC training comes in two parts, and it is up to professionals to pick the right level for them.

**Level 1** looks at the difference between parental conflict and domestic abuse, why this matters and touches on some of the toolkit available to start conversations with parents. This course is suitable for all who come into contact with parents and children and is essential training.

**Level 2** is for professionals and partners who have the capacity to work more in depth with parents, and offers them tools to be able to open up safely, and to offer them ideas and techniques in who to resolve arguments by showing appreciation, empathy, compromise and maybe agreeing to disagree. From getting parents to group behaviours into good and bad communication, to talk to each other so their concerns are received properly to understanding how children can become stuck in the middle of disagreements this course gets results.

Various dates are available across the year:

[Book Now for Level 1 & Level 2 training](#)

# Places available on WSP Training in June & July

- ❖ [Graded Care Profile 2 \(GCP2\) Training](#): 20 June, 26 June, 2 July
- ❖ [Neglect Resource Launch Event and Consultation](#): 25 June (am or pm session)
- ❖ [Outcome Star Training](#): 3 June, 8 July
- ❖ [Purposeful Multi-Agency Plans](#) for Children, Young People and Families:
- ❖ [Reducing Parental Conflict Awareness Training Level 1](#): 11 June
- ❖ [Right Help Right Time](#) - Full Training: 11 July
- ❖ [Supporting Families Coordinator Training \(Lead Professional\)](#): 3 June, 5 July
- ❖ [Trauma informed Training: Recognising the impact of stress and trauma on ourselves and our triggers](#): 19 June
- ❖ [Understanding Neglect Level 2](#): 5 June, 18 June, 3 July

# Places available on other training in June & July

## **CGL, The Beacon**

- ❖ [Hidden Harm and Parental Substance Use](#): 11 June
- ❖ [Substance Misuse Awareness and the impact on Families](#): 25 June

## **Centre of Expertise**

- ❖ [Putting the Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway into practice](#): 5 June
- ❖ [Putting the Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway into practice](#): 3 July
- ❖ [Speaking to children about sexual abuse](#): 18 June
- ❖ [Spotting the signs and indicators of child sexual abuse](#): 16 July
- ❖ [Supporting Parents/Carers when their child may have been sexually abused](#): 18 June

## **Birmingham Mind**

- ❖ [Walsall Mental Health & Suicide Prevention](#) – Train the Trainer: 3 June
- ❖ [Walsall Mental Health & Suicide Prevention](#) – Train the Trainer: 10 July
- ❖ [Walsall Mental Health & Suicide Prevention](#) – Train the Trainer: 16 July

# VRP Training Dates: June & July 2024

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

- ❖ An Introduction to Adverse Childhood Experiences  
4 June, 18 June  
2 July
- ❖ Exploitation Webinar  
10 June, 24 June
- ❖ Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention  
11 June, 25 June
- ❖ Working with Trauma in Early Years  
27 June, 25 July
- ❖ Trauma Informed Practice  
3 June, 17 June  
1 July
- ❖ Serious Violence Duty Briefing  
21 June, 19 July
- ❖ Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls (EMVAWG)  
27 June, 24 July
- ❖ Mentors in Violence Prevention  
28 June
- ❖ Change Makers Programme  
28 June

**To register your place 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](mailto:vrp@westmidlands.police.uk) to arrange a specific date to suit your needs which can be delivered either in person or online.



# WSP eLearning modules

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

Adults Safeguarding Awareness Level 1

Advocacy (Care Act) - external learning

Child Neglect Awareness – Level 1

Determining eligibility under the Care Act 2014 - external learning

Female Genital Mutilation: Recognising and Preventing (FGM) – external learning

ICON: 'Babies cry, you can cope'

Introduction to Safeguarding Children – Level 1

Personalisation – external learning

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>**



# 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](mailto:Safeguardingbusinessunit@walsall.gov.uk)

To receive the Spotlight and any news updates please  
subscribe to our website: [walsallsp.co.uk](http://walsallsp.co.uk)

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For the latest news from the Safeguarding Partnership, please sign up to our newsletter below:

Name\*

Email\*



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