

Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Safeguarding Spotlight

10 May 2024



WSP Priorities 2023 - 2025:

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



Care Act section 11(2)(b)

Refusal of Assessment

- (1) Where an adult refuses a needs assessment, the local authority concerned is not required to carry out the assessment (and section 9 (1) does not apply in the adult's case).
- (2) But the local authority may not rely on subsection (1) (and so must carry out a needs assessment) if—
 - (a) the adult lacks capacity to refuse the assessment and the authority is satisfied that carrying out the assessment would be in the adult's best interests, or
 - (b) the adult is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- (3) Where, having refused a needs assessment, an adult requests the assessment, section 9 (1) applies in the adult's case (and subsection (1) above does not).
- (4) Where an adult has refused a needs assessment and the local authority concerned thinks that the adult's needs or circumstances have changed, section 9 (1) applies in the adult's case (but subject to further refusal as mentioned in subsection (1) above).
- (5) Where a carer refuses a carer's assessment, the local authority concerned is not required to carry out the assessment (and section 10 (1) does not apply in the carer's case).
- (6) Where, having refused a carer's assessment, a carer requests the assessment, section 10 (1) applies in the carer's case (and subsection (5) above does not).
- (7) Where a carer has refused a carer's assessment and the local authority concerned thinks that the needs or circumstances of the carer or the adult needing care have changed, section 10 (1) applies in the carer's case (but subject to further refusal as mentioned in subsection (5) above).

WhatsApp in a Care Home

Skills for Care – advice to care homes for setting up a WhatsApp group:

<https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/resources/documents/Support-for-leaders-and-managers/Managing-a-service/Digital/A-guide-to-WhatsApp.pdf>

Areas include:

- ❖ Is WhatsApp Safe?
- ❖ WhatsApp & data protection
- ❖ Things to consider
- ❖ Data usage and Wi-fi access
- ❖ WhatsApp profile
- ❖ Security and passwords
- ❖ Responsible use
- ❖ Notifications
- ❖ WhatsApp on your computer
- ❖ Downloading information
- ❖ How to use groups

SAR13 (soon to be published)
highlighted use of WhatsApp
in a Care Home

A guide to WhatsApp



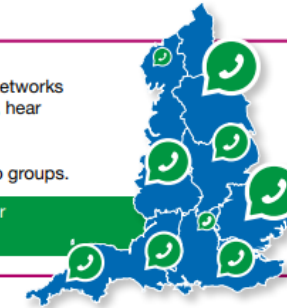
We understand that organisations are evolving with new ways of working. This may be the first time you and/or your organisation has started to use WhatsApp to communicate and share information.

Registered Managers Support

Skills for Care supports over 150 local Registered Managers Networks across England. At each network, managers share knowledge, hear from guest speakers and access peer support.

Our networks can be delivered virtually and through WhatsApp groups.

To find out more and to join your local network please visit our 'local networks for managers' area



What is WhatsApp?

WhatsApp is a messaging application (or app) which allows you to



send information via text and voice messages



make voice and video calls



share images/ documents, user locations, and other media

It offers great opportunities to communicate and share information with your workforce in a fast, effective and efficient way.

"I currently use WhatsApp to communicate important information to my staff that I want them to have immediately. Rather than the usual messages that they read when they come on duty. For example; any relevant information about COVID-19."

Lesley Kokai, St Michaels Care Home, Stoke

Quick Tip:

To use WhatsApp between people you must ensure the contact has a SMART device (mobile phone, tablet, PC) with internet access and has downloaded the WhatsApp app.



LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

Safer Employment & the LADO (Allegations)
Allegations against people working with children

To discuss an allegation against a person working with children, please contact:

Belinda Crowshaw – Walsall’s Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Office number: 01922 652322

Email for initial contact: lado@walsall.gov.uk (referral to be made via the [online referral form](#))

Email: Belinda.Crowshaw@walsall.gov.uk

The full procedure regarding allegations against people working with children can be viewed within the child protection procedures.



LADO Newsletter Spring 2024

As of 12.02.24 all referrals made to Walsall LADO need to be made via the LADO Portal through the Walsall Safeguarding Partnership website.



Please find link below:

Safer Employment & the LADO (Allegations) - Walsall Safeguarding Children (walsallsp.co.uk)

Gymnastics: A culture of abuse?

ITV recently produced a documentary – **Gymnastics: A culture of abuse?**

It includes analysis of the Whyte report and powerful accounts from victims. It can be found on the ITVX player.

<https://www.itv.com/watch/gymnastics-a-culture-of-abuse/10a4818>

Working Together to Safeguard Children

As outlined in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' the LADO must be informed of all allegations against adults who work with children.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2023/working-together-to-safeguard-children-2023-summary-of-changes>

Resource

The POSH helpline is a brilliant resource for advice and guidance for professionals about all things internet related.

Co-funded by the European Commission, The Professionals Online Safety Helpline (POSH) was set up in 2011 to help all members of the community working with or for children in the UK, with any online safety issues they, or children and young people in their care, may face. So if you work with children and young people, we're here to help you.

Professionals Online Safety Helpline | SWGfL

They have recently published new guidance for schools relating to How to respond to the **online sexual harassment of staff**

 Walsall Council



For further information read details on the [WSP Website](#)

Read the [LADO Spring Newsletter 2024](#)

Partnership

NEWS



Families First for Children (Pathfinder) Programme

Walsall is one of seven new areas in England selected to pilot the 'Families first for children' pathfinder programme – a national reform to children's social care, which is designed to keep more children in safe and loving homes and improve child protection.

As a 'pathfinder' area, Walsall will test new ways of working to help more children stay with their families, and further strengthen the Early Help partnership to ensure families suffering from issues such as domestic abuse, addiction, and poor mental health, can receive Family Help at the earliest opportunity.

The programme will build upon Walsall's existing multi-agency Family Safeguarding Service and Early Help offer.

The pathfinder programme is part of the government's children's social care reform strategy, [Stable Homes, Built on Love](#), which aims to revolutionise the current system to put more focus on early intervention and best practice child protection where required.

The programme follows an Independent National Review to Children's Social Care in 2021, which highlighted ways the social care system could better support children and families in England.

Please click the link to read the article - [Walsall selected for national pilot to transform children's social care](#)

See [WSP Website](#) for the first edition of the [Families First Newsletter](#)

The newsletter cover has a purple border. At the top left, it says 'April 2024'. At the top center, there's a 'Newsletter' graphic with colorful speech bubbles. At the top right, it says '1st Edition'. The main title is 'Families First Newsletter' in large purple letters. Below that is the subtitle 'Introduction to the Pathfinder Programme'. The cover contains several text blocks and an illustration of people holding lightbulbs. At the bottom, it says 'Walsall Council' and 'PROUD OF OUR PAST, OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE'.

April 2024 **Newsletter** **1st Edition**

Families First Newsletter


Introduction to the Pathfinder Programme

Welcome to the first edition of our Families First Newsletter.

This will be where we share an overview of everything that is happening with the programme in one place each month.

In this edition, we will share all the activity that has been going on for the Families First (Pathfinder) Programme, and what will be happening next.

It is going to be a busy couple of months but exciting times ahead!



Getting Started

The last month has been taken up with getting things in place to take the Families First Programme forwards.

A project team has been established led by Antony Schaffarczyk and Julie Jones, bringing together Early Help and Children's Social Care.


Partnership Leads are being recruited as the Families First Programme is a partnership programme about how we all work together to help families and keep children safe. Our Police Lead has been confirmed and is in place, welcome DCI Chris Wilkes and leads are being recruited for Health and Education.

Key roles have been established including a Participation Officer, Mosaic Senior Systems Developer, Data and Systems Officer and Business Support Officer recruited to begin in May. This will enable the team to implement sustainable changes to systems and processes.

We have attended four key workshops in April from the Department for Education setting out the detail of the programme Design Specification, and what we will need to do as part of the programme. In addition we attended the Walsall Learning Alliance Belong Conference and will be aligning the pathfinder.

Reports have been provided to key decision-making forums in the council and the Safeguarding Partnership.

A first draft of the programme plan has been developed. This will evolve as the project continues. We have also set up a Families First Programme Board chaired by Executive Director for Children's services Colleen Male which will oversee the plan and make sure the programme is moving forwards.



Walsall Council **PROUD OF OUR PAST, OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE**

Empowering Parents Empowering Communities

It has been life changing!

**BOOK
HERE
NOW**



**Empowering Parents
Empowering Communities**

Please come and join us!

Walsall Family Hubs are pleased to announce the new Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities - Being A Parent groups starting from January 2024.

Being a parent can be a precious experience. It also comes with a range of challenges and worries. Whilst we don't have a 'manual to follow' together we can, as parents & carers ourselves offer you the opportunity to gain skills to listen, communicate and interact with your children and focus on different developmental periods from birth onwards.

Free Creche Places



Scan code or click the link to sign up: <https://forms.office.com/e/NejSdLpCTf>

I feel less alone!



**Empowering Parents
Empowering Communities**

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Free Creche Places



Scan code or click the link to sign up: <https://forms.office.com/e/NejSdLpCTf>

I feel more confident as a parent

Please see below our parent groups:

<p>North - Busil Jones Primary School:</p> <p>Ashley Road, Bloxwich WS3 2QF</p> <p>14th May - 16th July 09:30 - 11:30am Every Tuesday's (excluding school holiday's)</p>	<p>South and Central locality hub:</p> <p>Birchill's Street, Walsall WS2 8NG</p> <p>14th May - 16th July 12:20 - 2:30pm Every Tuesday's (excluding school holiday's)</p>	<p>West Walsall - Lodge Farm Primary School:</p> <p>Furzebank Way, Willenhall WV12 4BU</p> <p>8th May - 17th July 1:00 - 3:00pm Every Wednesday's (excluding school holiday's)</p>
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For more information:

- earlyhelpvolunteers@walsall.gov.uk
- 01922 652 472
- Early Help | Walsall Council
- www.walsallfamilyhubs.co.uk

What do parents like about EPEC?

- Thousands of parents have taken part in EPEC groups. Parents are passionate about their experience and strongly recommend the group. Parents say:
- "The group helped me and the children a lot, the group had a fantastic atmosphere and very encouraging to try new strategies which are extremely helpful."
 - "The EPEC group was none judgmental, I've enjoyed the sessions, its educational and its completely changed my life." *Walsall parent*
 - "The way each topic and subject is broken down helps you understanding more and makes you feel better as a parent, that you are not alone and things can change."
 - "Since attending EPEC I feel prouder of my children. I fell like we have both learned alot in a positive way, I don't feel so alone anymore." *Walsall parent*
 - "This group has helped me to break the cycle...to begin to let go of the past...enabling me to finally look to the future."

What impact does EPEC have?

- Over 90% of parents report that EPEC has increased their understanding of positive parenting, developed their parenting skills and increased their confidence to be an effective parent. Parents say:
- "It has helped me to stop smacking and shouting, I listen to my daughter a lot more."
 - "It's changed my personality as a person and mother as mother towards my child."
 - "This group has calmed me down... I understand my child's behaviour and it has made us both happier."

EPEC is very popular and highly recommended by parents. EPEC transforms parents' knowledge and skills, family resilience and relationships, children's outcomes and development.

For more information:

- earlyhelpvolunteers@walsall.gov.uk
- 01922 652 472
- Early Help | Walsall Council
- www.walsallfamilyhubs.co.uk



Hoarding Awareness Week: 13 - 17 May 2024

National Hoarding Awareness Week is an annual campaign that raises awareness about the serious impact of hoarding on individuals, families, and communities.

Celebrating 10 years since the first awareness week was devised, this year's theme is centred around looking back at how much has changed over the last decade regarding the awareness and education surrounding Hoarding Disorder.

Access the webpage: <https://hoardingawarenessweek.org.uk/> to download an Involvement Pack, a Coffee Morning Pack, a Press Release Pack and further information.

THREE KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Spread more widely an awareness of hoarding facts.
- Promote greater understanding and acceptance across those who can influence change through education.
- Encourage a stronger tendency for key influencers to support and promote at key moments.

THE KEY MESSAGES OF UK HOARDING AWARENESS WEEK 2024: INNOVATION AND NEW APPROACHES

Education

Understanding that being educated on the condition will help collaboration between supporters and those who hoard. Educate as many people as possible.

Multi Agency Approaches

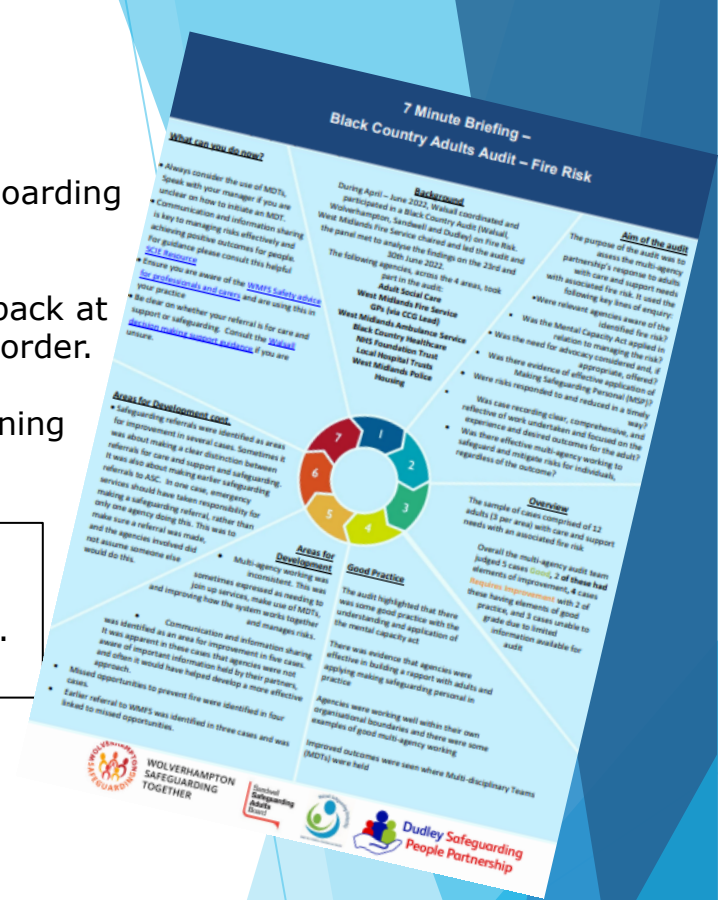
Create and develop partnerships that encourage multi agency approaches and working together as a team. Supportive Intervention developed by Clouds End is testing this in a large citywide project in Birmingham called Chaos to Order and will be sharing findings later this year.



Find out more on the [WSP Self-Neglect & Hoarding](#) webpages.

Download the local [Self-Neglect and Hoarding Strategy & Toolkit](#)

Remind yourself of the [Black Country Fire Audit](#) briefing of 2022



Knife Crime Awareness Week: 13 – 19 May 2024

#Sceptre week

#LifeorKnife



Police and schools across the West Midlands are committed to working together to protect our young people from becoming victims of knife crime, but to do this we need your help. There were 48,716 incidents involving a knife or sharp instrument over the last year. We are asking our partners to promote the importance of parents and carers talking to their child/ren about the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife.

Start that conversation today: Talk to your child or young person about the dangers of carrying a knife. Carrying a knife for protection is not a valid reason for the police. It actually means you're 51% more likely to have it used against you.

DAY 1: Encourage all carers and parents to check in with their children. With more access to online retailers and social media selling, we are seeing an increase in weapons and knives being purchased online. Be sure to check unexpected deliveries to your door and call 101 if you have a concern.

DAY 2: The thought of seeing your child in trouble, hurt or even worse is a parent's worst nightmare. So now is the right time to chat to your child about knife crime and the impact it can have.

[How to have that conversation.](#)

DAY 3: As part of our ongoing campaign, we are being supported by Sarah Barry, the mother of Jack who lost his life in 2021 from a knife fight.

Listen to her story on [YouTube](#)

“Jack died from a knife fight - just a chance encounter with someone he'd fallen out with over a disagreement - both parties were carrying knives and there was only one blow from each of them. The incident took no more than 30-60 seconds but Jack was fatally injured and died from a single stab wound to the chest.”

DAY 4: Ronan Kanda's Story

Listen to his story on [YouTube](#)

Ronan was 16 when he was stabbed, seconds from home, by teenagers who thought he was someone else.

DAY 5: It's important you and your children know the law. Take some time to have a conversation with your child on this, here are some key points:

- It's illegal to carry a knife, unless you have a legitimate reason.
- Self-protection is not a reasonable excuse for carrying an offensive weapon.
- It's illegal to buy a knife if you're under 18 years old.
- The police can stop and search anyone they think is carrying a weapon.
- Carrying a knife can mean four years in prison, even if you don't use it.
- There is no safe space to stab someone



Knife bins are located in Walsall Tesco & Willenhall Memorial Park

Mental Health Awareness Week: 13 – 19 May 2024

"Movement: Moving more for our mental health"

Being active is important for our mental health. But so many of us struggle to get enough exercise.

We know there are many different reasons for this, so this Mental Health Awareness Week we want to help people to find moments for movement in their daily routines.

- ✓ Going for a walk in your neighbourhood
- ✓ Putting on your favourite music and dancing around the living room
- ✓ Chair exercises when you're watching television

It all counts!

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/mental-health-awareness-week>

Foster Care Fortnight: 13 – 26 May 2024

Foster Care Fortnight is The Fostering Network's annual campaign to raise the profile of fostering and show how foster care transforms lives.

This year's theme is #FosteringMoments

We want to celebrate the moments that define fostering journeys, big and small. The moments that built confidence, made young people feel safe and created memories.

Foster walk is our annual sponsored walk for fostering held during Foster Care Fortnight. Now in its 11th year, Foster Walk is a great way to get outside, meet new people, fundraise and raise awareness of fostering as you walk with others in the community.

Join us for Foster Walk 2024 with your friends, family, neighbours and colleagues and help make it our biggest walk yet!

Register your place on [Eventbrite](#)

[Foster Care Fortnight 2024 | The Fostering Network](#)



Walk to School Week : 20 – 24 May 2024

Walsall's Walk to School Week initiative is being promoted as part of the local A*STARS program (Active Sustainable Travel and Road Safety). A*STARS is delivered in partnership with Public Health and is a series of walking, wheeling and road safety initiatives, along with training, expertise and support that is given to schools to help them to develop and promote safer, healthier lifestyle choices for all. For more information see: www.astarswalsall.co.uk





Walsall Council

Join us for Walk to School Week

Monday
There are 4 animals that are also types of crossings, can you name them?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Tuesday
What do you need to do when crossing the road?

- _____ 
- _____ 
- _____ 
- _____ 

Wednesday
Can you find the hidden words?

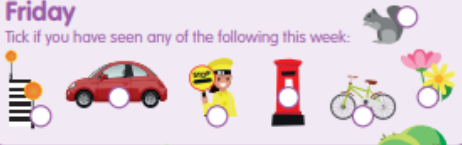
C	A	C	T	I	V	E	W
T	R	P	A	R	K	H	A
L	E	O	W	H	E	J	L
B	Q	M	S	A	U	K	K
I	J	W	L	S	V	N	I
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E	H	L	N	V	H	N	G
Y	D	A	Z	Z	L	E	G

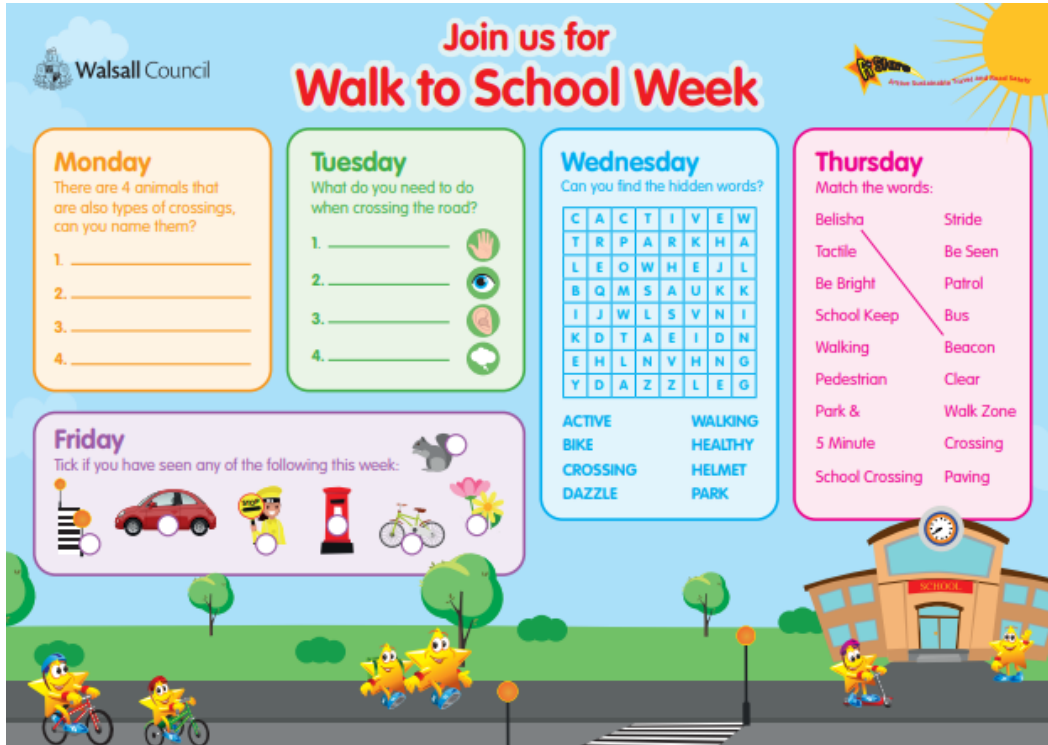
ACTIVE WALKING
BIKE HEALTHY
CROSSING HELMET
DAZZLE PARK

Thursday
Match the words:

Belisha	Stride
Tactile	Be Seen
Be Bright	Patrol
School Keep	Bus
Walking	Beacon
Pedestrian	Clear
Park &	Walk Zone
5 Minute	Crossing
School Crossing	Paving

Friday
Tick if you have seen any of the following this week:





Travel Diary

See if you can tick off all 5 days!

Name: _____
Class: _____

	This week I have walked/scooted/cycled on	Can you name 1 reason each day why travelling actively is good for you?	Colour the weather today
Monday	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	   
Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	   
Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	   
Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	   
Friday	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	   
Total Days:	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Moving more can improve your physical health

Active Travel can help with air quality



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)
- [Places available to book](#) – May & June (virtual and face-to-face)
- [Understanding Neglect and GCP2 Training dates](#)
- [VRP Training Dates](#)
- [WSP eLearning](#)
- Learning from [Adult Reviews, Audits, Webinars, Briefings](#)
- Learning from [Child Reviews, Audits, Webinars, Briefings](#)

Places available on WSP Training in May & June

- ❖ [Graded Care Profile 2 \(GCP2\) Training](#): 20 May, 20 June, 26 June
- ❖ [Purposeful Multi-Agency Plans](#) for Children, Young People and Families: 22 May
- ❖ [Right Help Right Time](#) - Full Training: 23 May
- ❖ [Understanding Neglect Level 2](#): 5 June, 18 June

Places available on other training in May & June

- ❖ [Putting the Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway into practice](#): 15 May
- ❖ [Putting the Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway into practice](#): 5 June
- ❖ [Spotting the signs and indicators of child sexual abuse](#): 16 May
- ❖ [Walsall Mental Health & Suicide Prevention](#) – Train the Trainer: 21 May
- ❖ [Walsall Mental Health & Suicide Prevention](#) – Train the Trainer: 3 June

VRP Training Dates: May & June 2024

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

- ❖ An Introduction to Adverse Childhood Experiences
21 May, 4 June, 18 June
- ❖ Exploitation Webinar
22 May, 10 June, 24 June
- ❖ Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention
14 May, 28 May, 11 June, 25 June
- ❖ Working with Trauma in Early Years
23 May, 27 June
- ❖ Trauma Informed Practice
15 May, 3 June, 17 June
- ❖ Serious Violence Duty Briefing
24 May, 21 June
- ❖ Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls (EMVAWG)
30 May, 27 June
- ❖ Mentors in Violence Prevention
31 May, 28 June
- ❖ Change Makers Programme
31 May, 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 to arrange a specific date to suit your needs which can be delivered either in person or online.



Neglect Training

Understanding Neglect Training - 1 day face to face:

5th June 2024
18th June 2024
3rd July 2024

GCP2 Training - 1 day face to face:

20th May 2024
20th June 2024
26th June 2024
2nd July 2024



Scan the QR code to book today
or visit:

Walsall Safeguarding - Learning Management System
event-booking.org.uk

Recruitment

Understanding Neglect Trainers

WANTED

- Are you passionate about tackling Child Neglect in Walsall?
- Do you want to help partner agencies recognise neglect much earlier?
- The only way this can happen is if all practitioners have a good understanding of Neglect and the impact it has on the children and families we are working with.
- Become an Understanding Neglect Trainer today!

For further information, please contact:
Ness O'Hara - Neglect Lead - Walsall Safeguarding Partnership
vanessa.ohara@walsall.gov.uk



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