

Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Safeguarding Spotlight

7 June 2024



WSP Priorities 2023 - 2025:

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



Young people's knowledge, attitudes and behaviours towards abuse

Exploring what young people in Together for Childhood know, think and do about child abuse

NSPCC have published a report looking at learning from Together for Childhood, a place-based approach to making communities safer for children. The report is based on insight from children and young people around what they know, think and would do about child abuse. The findings help us to understand more about young people's perspectives on child abuse.

[Read the report](#)



Barriers for professionals to reporting abuse and neglect

What barriers do you face when reporting abuse and neglect?

NSPCC Helplines insight briefing shares experiences of adults working with young people where they faced barriers to reporting abuse. Barriers may include a lack of safeguarding processes and worries about disrupting families. By better understanding barriers, we can consider how they could be removed.

[Read the Helplines insight briefing](#)

Child Sexual Abuse

Read further information on the [WSP website](https://walsallsp.walsall.gov.uk/Professionals-Volunteers/Children-Safeguarding/Child-Sexual-Abuse).

Book on and attend [CSA Training](#).

7 Minute Briefing: Child Sexual Abuse



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Resources

A thorough list of procedures and support resources can be found on the WSP website, along with the **CSA Strategy**

<https://walsallsp.walsall.gov.uk/Professionals-Volunteers/Children-Safeguarding/Child-Sexual-Abuse>

Training on CSA is available on the **WSP Learning Management System**.

The Partnership is reviewing their training offer for frontline staff on the issue of sexual abuse in the family environment. This will be available in due course.

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Procedures

The Regional Child Protection Procedures for West Midlands is designed to assist professionals in identifying where children and young people's sexual relationships may be abusive.

It is used in conjunction with the Child Sexual Exploitation procedure.

Anyone concerned about a child's sexual behaviour should discuss this with their Designated Safeguarding Lead. When there are concerns that a young person is at risk of CSE, a referral must be made to Children's Social Care.

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Peer on Peer Abuse

Around 1/3 of child sexual abuse is committed by other children and young people (Hackett, 2014). Peer sexual abuse can happen in a range of settings e.g., school, home, public places, parties, friend's houses and online.

Speaking out about any form of abuse

Young people may be confused about whether they have experienced abuse or not. This could be because they are unsure what constitutes 'normal' sexual activity, the abuse happened by a friend/partner, they blame themselves or the abuse took place online. Children may be reluctant to tell anybody about any type of sexual abuse. This may be because:

- They worry they won't be taken seriously,
- They fear they will be blamed or bullied,
- They are frightened of consequences of speaking out,
- They are unsure if it is serious enough to report.
- This is why it is important for professionals to recognise the signs and types of sexual abuse.

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Intra-familial Sexual Abuse

Intra-familial child sexual abuse refers to CSA that occurs within a family environment. The perpetrators may or may not be related to the child – the key factor is that they feel like the family from the child's point of view.

CSA in the family is rarely an isolated occurrence and may occur for many years. Abuse can remain undisclosed as children may fear their abuser or not want to get them in trouble.

Intra-familial CSA occurs across all families, however, there are differences in the extent to which abuse gets reported and responded to. Higher levels of shame and stigma in Black, Asian and Minority groups, combined with cultural assumptions by professionals can increase barriers to disclosures. Research indicates disabled children are three times more likely to be victims of CSA (Centre of Expertise on CSA, 2018)

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Definition

Child Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a young person or child to take part in sexual activities. It includes contact and non-contact abuse. The abusive sexual activity may involve trickery, coercion, threats and/or aggression.

Child Sexual Abuse can happen anywhere and may be online or in person.

It is difficult to know the prevalence of CSA, but studies suggest 15-20% of girls and 7-8% of boys experience a form of sexual abuse (Centre of Expertise on CSA, 2018)

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Types of Child Sexual Abuse

Contact

- Sexual touching of any part of body with or without clothing.
- Rape or penetration of an object in child's mouth, vagina or anus.
- Forcing a child to take part in sexual activity.
- Making a child take their clothes off, touch someone else or masturbate.

Non-contact

- Encouraging a child to watch or hear sexual acts.
- Not taking measures to prevent a child being exposed to sexual activity.
- Meeting a child following sexual grooming with intent of abusing them.
- Online abuse: making, viewing or distributing child abuse images.
- Showing pornography to a child.

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Signs of Child Sexual Abuse

- Frightened when with someone they know.
- Language or sexual behaviour you wouldn't expect them to know.
- Nightmares or bedwetting.
- Sexually transmitted infections or pregnancy.
- Becoming withdrawn, emotionally flat, disinterested and isolated.
- Becoming hyperactive or aggressive.
- School problems: poor attendance and/or poor school work, behaviour.
- Alcohol or drug use.
- Self-harm.

Harmful sexual behaviour: statistics briefing

NSPCC Learning has published a new statistics briefing on harmful sexual behaviour. It looks at data and statistics about harmful sexual behaviour in the UK to help professionals make evidence-based decisions, covering the scale of the issue and what data tells us about children who experienced or display harmful sexual behaviour.

[Read the briefing](#)

Partnership

NEWS



Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024

The DfE have released the May 2024 (for information) version of "Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024", pending publication of final version which does not come into force until September 2024.

[Keeping children safe in education 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Please find below a summary of the current updates, which may be subject to change:

Part One: Safeguarding Information for All Staff

Page 4: The definition of "safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children" has been updated to reflect the latest "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023".

Paragraph 18: The section on "Early help" has been revised to align with the updated "Working Together" guidance.

Paragraph 19: The heading "Abuse and Neglect" has been amended to include "exploitation" and this change is reflected throughout the document.

Paragraph 24: Additional text has been added to "Indicators of Abuse and Neglect" to specify "including where they see, hear, or experience its effects" in the context of domestic violence.

Paragraph 29: The term "deliberately missing education" has been updated to "unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education" in the section on "Safeguarding Issues".

Part Two: The Management of Safeguarding

Paragraph 92: A new paragraph has been included to address compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR requirements.

Paragraph 171: Clarification has been added that schools remain responsible for the pupils they place in alternative provision.

Paragraph 204: Links have been added to NSPCC advice on protecting children with Special Educational Needs (SEN), as well as deaf or disabled children and young people.

Paragraphs 205 to 209: Additional text and a disclaimer have been included to provide further clarification on terminology and guidance related to children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or questioning their gender.

Continued...Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024

Part Five: Child-on-Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Paragraph 497: The text on "Early help" has been revised to align with "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023".

Annex B: Further Information

Page 148: The section on "Children and the court system" now includes two separate age-appropriate guides for schools to support children involved in the court system.

Page 156: A disclaimer has been added to the "Preventing radicalisation" section, with minimal changes to clarify schools' duties in relation to Prevent.

Annex C: Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

Page 170: Additional guidance has been added to bullet point 3 regarding the rationale for making decisions about "Holding and sharing information."

New Podcast: Absenteeism in schools

Learn more about why children miss school and the potential safeguarding implications

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, pupil absence rates have increased with hundreds of thousands of children persistently absent from school. This podcast episode explores the safeguarding implications for absent pupils and what schools can do to support children. You'll also hear two students share their thoughts on how the stresses of school life can affect attendance.

[LISTEN ONLINE](#)

The discussion covered:

- what school absenteeism is and how it is defined
- what the safeguarding implications could be for children who miss school
- the impact of the pandemic on absenteeism trends
- what schools can do to prevent absenteeism and support persistently absent children
- what Childline is hearing about why children miss school.

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

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

<https://nwgnetwork.org/>

Barnardo's...mental health support

AIM: To develop and deliver a MHWB Support service across the 4 Black Country Acute Trusts Emergency Departments (ED's) . The service will have 4.5 MHWB support workers operating over the 4 sites, with a named support worker lead for each ED.

Following presentation at EDs, Barnardo's can support in the following ways:

- 1. Offer a direct referral into service for CYP who do NOT require a CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) Crisis intervention assessment (i.e. low-level/social MHWB presentations). This offers a discharge option/package for ED practitioners and self-referral options for families/parents.*
- 2. Offer a step-down pathway following assessment from the CAMHS Crisis Intervention Team and are not requiring acute admission and/or further involvement from the CAMHS crisis intervention service.*

Key activities of the service:

- Provide information/point of contacts/agreed support for ED's (as appropriate, including provision of self-referral and self-help material, information/advice/guidance resources and simple mechanisms for ED practitioner referral to service).
- Provide short- and longer-term information/support (including therapeutic) for the CYP and family, offering a follow up programme of:
 - Holistic 1:1 support for CYP, to improve their mental health and wellbeing
 - The development of integrated pathways into community support; including schools, early help, community/voluntary provision
 - Family support/parenting to build capacity within the home, to manage and support the CYP's needs.
 - Support the development of a conduit between the CAMHS Crisis Teams, the ED, core CAMHS provisions, early help/children's social care, and wider community support, to create alternative solutions to ED presentations and hospital admissions, wherever safe and practical.

Barnardo's Black Country Child and Young Person Mental Health Support Service who are attending Emergency Departments



Aims of the service:

The Black Country Child and Mental Health Support Service provides a range of support and interventions for children, young people who have attended a Hospital Emergency Department due to their emotional and mental health needs. We offer appropriate support following your admission at the Emergency Department such as self-help material, information/advice and guidance resources. We also provide follow up support in your home/community based around your individual needs




We offer:


- Face to face individual support or whole family support in your home or chosen setting
- Support to raise self esteem, build resilience, mindfulness, relaxation techniques, behaviour techniques, coping with bereavement, managing emotions; staying safe strategies; relationships and sex education and promoting healthy lifestyles
- A range of approaches/direct support i.e. mindfulness, resilience work, relaxation techniques, behaviour support, therapeutic/counselling techniques
- Our work will help you to develop coping strategies, techniques, goals to support and manage feelings and anxiety
- Early help support and links to community support networks
- Parenting support and guidance
- Support and guidance around your education and schooling
- Mentoring, advocacy and support attending appointments



If you would like some help and support please contact us on:

 Tel: 01384411722

 Email: ED_CYP_MHWBsupport_Walsall@barnardos.org.uk

 Use the QR code



English Gambling Education Hub

The English Gambling Education Hubs next free online insights event:

"Luck of the draw Taking change out of gambling support for young people."
Tuesday 25th June 2024 from 10.00am – 12.00pm

The event will explore gambling harm services and support available for professionals and young people in England

[Booking available on Eventbrite](#)



GamCare and Partners are delighted to invite you to our next Insights Event, brought to you by the English Gambling Education Hub:

‘Luck of the draw? Taking change out of gambling support for young people.’

Tuesday 25th June 2024
10am – 12pm
(This will be an online event)

RSVP and sign-up for our event [here](#)

The English Gambling Education Hub invites you to join our next event dedicated to exploring gambling harm services and support available for professionals and young people in England.

We know that getting adequate support can be a postcode lottery. Waiting lists are high for accessing all forms of support and many services are stretched. BUT support is not a regional roulette! We aim to highlight the support available **now** across England, focusing on awareness and prevention to shield young people from gambling harm and signpost to what's available to guide them, and you, towards the right offer.

This event is for anyone working with young people and wondering how gambling fits into the wider digital landscape. We will take forward our insights into a consensus of opinion and to develop some recommendations and guidance for best practice.

RSVP and sign-up for our event [here](#)

The EGEH is a free, collaborative programme between seven partners; to support organisations, families and professionals working with young people. The hub provides clear and quality information, support and education, around gambling and young people.

ManKind Initiative



In April the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) launched 'The Survivorship Experiences of Men and Boys of Crimes Categorised as Crimes of Violence Against Women and Girls', a [landmark report](#) into the impact on male survivors of being categorised in this manner.



There is a growing awareness of the **link between suicide and domestic abuse**. In response to this the Cheshire East Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership, alongside expert colleagues, have created a [toolkit](#) to support practitioners in effective intervention and providing crucial support.

<https://mankind.org.uk/>

Male Victims of Domestic Abuse
confidential helpline
Monday – Friday 10am to 4pm

FREEPHONE 0808 800 1170
(will not show on your bills)

HELPLINE 01823 334 244
(for those with inclusive minutes)

Channel 5 series covers murder of David Twigg by his fiancé Julie Dixon

"A Killer Makes A Call" true crime series is available to watch on [Channel 5](#)



The Government has released a new consultation on the **Statutory Guidance for Domestic Homicide Reviews** (due to be renamed Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews) on May 1st – closing date July 1st.

For full details and to contribute, access [GOV.UK/DHR](https://gov.uk/dhr)

This guidance 'guides' practice so it is very important – especially for the creation of a review.

Read the draft guidance:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66321bff69098ded31fca768/DHR_Stat_Guidance_DRAFT_Final.pdf



Home Office

Domestic Homicide Review
Statutory Guidance

Government consultation

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



Places available on WSP Training in June & July

- ❖ [Reducing Parental Conflict Awareness Training Level 1](#): 11 June
- ❖ [Understanding Child Protection Procedures \(Section 47 Enquiries\)](#): 11 June
- ❖ [Working Together to meet the needs of children and young people who have displayed Harmful Sexual Behaviour \(HSB\)](#): 13 June
- ❖ [Understanding Neglect Level 2](#): 18 June
- ❖ [Trauma informed Training: Recognising the impact of stress and trauma on ourselves and our triggers](#): 19 June
- ❖ [Graded Care Profile 2 \(GCP2\) Training](#): 26 June

- ❖ [Understanding Neglect Level 2](#): 3 July
- ❖ [Supporting Families Coordinator Training \(Lead Professional\)](#): 5 July
- ❖ [Outcome Star Training](#): 8 July
- ❖ [Right Help Right Time](#) - Full Training: 11 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

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

Birmingham Mind

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

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.



VRP Training Dates: June & July 2024

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

- ❖ An Introduction to Adverse Childhood Experiences
18 June, 27 June, 2 July, 16 July, 30 July
- ❖ An Introduction to Trauma Informed working in healthcare settings
23 July
- ❖ Change Makers Programme
28 June, 26 July
- ❖ Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls (EMVAWG)
27 June, 24 July
- ❖ Exploitation Webinar
24 June, 8 July, 22 July
- ❖ Mentors in Violence Prevention
28 June, 26 July
- ❖ Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention
11 June, 25 June, 9 July, 23 July
- ❖ Serious Violence Duty Briefing
21 June, 19 July
- ❖ Sport and Serious Violence Duty
11 July
- ❖ Trauma Informed Practice
17 June, 1 July, 15 July, 29 July
- ❖ Working with Trauma in Early Years
27 June, 25 July

To register your place visit: [West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership Events - 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.



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

To receive the Spotlight and any news updates please
subscribe to our website: walsallsp.co.uk

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

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Email*



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