



MINUTES

Meeting Ref:	Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Meeting
Date:	Wednesday 10 th December 2025
Time:	10:00 – 12:30
Venue:	Shire Hall, Warwick

Present:	Initials
In person:	
Nigel Minns – WCC CYP & WSCP Chair	NM
Jackie Channell – Associate Chief Nurse for Safeguarding, ICB	JC
Carl Lewis - Service Manager for Education Safeguarding, WCC	CL
Richard Long – Head of Policy & Partnerships, Warwickshire Police	RL
Isabel Main - Clinical Operations Manager, Compass School Nursing	IM
Suz Maclaren – Team Leader, Change Grow Live	SM
Vicky Woodfield – Head of Service, Children’s Services, WCC	VW
Daniel Atkins – Head of Quality & Impact, C&F, WCC	DA
John Coleman – Director of C&F, WCC	JC
Andy Wade - Head of Probation Service, Probation Service	AW
Derek Benson – Independent Scrutineer	DB
Johnny Kyriacou - Director of Education, Education Services, WCC	JK
Dr Natasha Sabin – Practice Improvement Advisor, CSA Centre of Expertise	NS
Rebecca Jessup – Director of Safeguarding, Warwick Foundation Schools	RJ
Craig Dicken – Equality & Safeguarding Lead, Nuneaton & Bedworth DC	CD
Lisa Pratley - Lead Professional for Safeguarding, UHCW	LP
Jatinder S. Birdi - Chair of Warwick District Faiths Forum	JB
Angela Richardson – Head of Safeguarding, George Eliot Hospital	AR
Maxine Nicholls - Head of Safeguarding, CWPT	MN
Moirra Bishop - Head of Safeguarding, SWFT	MB
Nikki Rees – Warwick District Council	NR
Liz Harrison – Head of National Services, Safeline	LH
Uju Okereke – Consultant in Public Health, ICB	UO
Ben Hudson – Serious Violence Prevention Officer, WCC	BH
Emma Dolman – Head of Prevention and Early Intervention, Safeline	ED
Ann Hume – Senior Solicitor & Team Manager CYP, WCC	AH
Tracy Southam – Area Manager, WCAVA	TS
Ramandeep Sandhu - Service Manager, WSCP, WCC	RS
Caroline Cooke - Quality, Learning & Improvement Officer, WSCP, WCC	CC
Holly Reed - Quality, Learning & Improvement Officer, WSCP, WCC	HR
Jasmine Nahal – Business Development Officer, WSCP, WCC	JN
Virtual:	
Charlie Naughton - Head of Public Protection, Warwickshire Police	CN
Rebecca Hill - Sexual Exploitation Service Manager, Barnardos	RH

Martin Cowan - <i>Housing Options Manager, Stratford DC</i>	MC
Apologies:	
Peter Hawkins - <i>Assistant Head, St Paul's CoE Primary</i> Joanne Harrison - <i>Assistant Director for Safeguarding, NHS England</i> Tina Kennedy - <i>Child & Youth Care Manager/Safeguarding Officer, Rosa</i> Wayne Briggs – <i>Portfolio Holder for Education, WCC</i> Kirsten Lord - <i>Service Manager, Change Grow Live</i> Mary Lewis – <i>Children's Services Manager, Barnardos</i> George Finch - <i>Portfolio Holder for C&F, WCC</i> Moreno Francioso - <i>Prevention Manager, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue</i> Rebecca McGeown – <i>Head of Safeguarding, HCRG Care Group</i>	

Item	Discussion	Action Required (if any)	Owner
1.	Welcome and Introductions: NM welcomed partners to the meeting.		
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes from the previous Partnership meeting (23/09/2025) were reviewed. No amendments were requested, and the minutes were approved.	 ITEM 3- 23 09 2025 WSC Partnership Me	
3.	Safeguarding Reforms and Strategic Updates: Integrated Care Board (ICB) JC provided an update on the ongoing NHS England Reforms, with a particular focus on their implications for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). The restructuring will reduce the sectors served by the ICB and is expected to impact staff morale. Voluntary redundancies are strongly encouraged to avoid compulsory layoffs. Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)		

	RL provided an overview of the recent developments regarding Police and Crime Commissioners and implications for safeguarding. The roles and offices will be abolished by May 2028, with responsibilities transferring to mayoral authorities or unitary authorities via police and crime boards. This transition may lead to merging police forces and changes in safeguarding governance. Although PCCs do not hold statutory safeguarding roles, they have Section 11 duties related to safeguarding oversight. The forthcoming police reform white paper, delayed until January 2026, is expected to provide further details.		
4.	WSCP Annual Report: NM gave a comprehensive overview of the WSCP Annual Report, highlighting the vision and values and the child-friendly approach. Strategic priorities include: - Protecting children from neglect. - Promoting welfare. - Enhancing multi-agency systems. - Ensuring community safety. The involvement of safeguarding partners from education was noted as a positive development. The running of various subgroups and task and finish groups continues to drive progress. Financial arrangements remain stable with no immediate changes to funding proportions. Referral rates are below the national average but above statistical neighbours, with emotional abuse and neglect listed as leading causes for child protection plans. The rise in neglect-related plans was seen as a positive recognition of this issue.	 ITEM 5- WSCP Annual Report- Final	

	Efforts to reduce over-intervention align with national recommendations and remain a priority.		
5.	Child Sexual Abuse Pathway and developing our strategic response: NS presented on behalf of the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse. The presentation covered the Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway, an interactive online resource guiding professionals through a child's journey in safeguarding systems. The pathway provides detailed statutory and non-statutory guidance and addresses the under-identification of child sexual abuse - NS highlighted that a reduction in child sexual abuse cases identified does <i>not</i> necessarily mean a reduction in the abuse occurring. The regional rollout of the pathway concluded with varied engagement from Warwickshire. There is a tiered approach in the county: - Introductory webinars (noted as having very limited attendance). - Specialised webinars on topics such as online behaviour and familial abuse. - A train-the-trainer programme. - An e-learning package integrated into local systems. - Fifty Practice Leads undergoing intensive training. NS emphasised the need for creative dissemination of child sexual abuse learning, including podcasts and briefings tailored to different professional groups, and embedding learning into multi-agency child protection teams. Partners were asked to discuss their thoughts on the following questions: - How can partners help embed the Response Pathway in their organisations?	 ITEM 6- Child Sexual Abuse Preser Continue working with Warwickshire to lead specific child sexual abuse work. Review and provide any feedback on the Response Pathway.	NS All

	- What training and resources would support professionals to build their confidence to identify and respond to child sexual abuse? RS highlighted ongoing development of the child sexual abuse strategy, with a consultation/launch event planned for 26th February 2026, and a practitioner survey to gather feedback.	Oversee child sexual abuse strategy development and prepare for consultation.	RS
6.	Neglect Strategy Update: DA provided a comprehensive update regarding the Neglect Strategy. Discussion included the introduction of a screening tool designed for use by any professional in contact with families to assess neglect. The tool aims to standardise identification and support conversations with families, recognising the complexity and variability of neglect situations. Participants noted challenges in applying standardised tools given the diversity of family circumstances and emphasised the importance of professional judgement and relationship-building. The tool is currently being rolled out within Families First and will expand across the Partnership.	 ITEM 7 Neglect-Presentation Review and provide feedback on the screening tool, including language and applicability for different professional groups.	ALL
7.	Race, Racism and Safeguarding: CN presented findings from the National Panel's report on Race, Racism and Safeguarding (published in March 2025). The report identified systemic gaps and practice weaknesses, including: - Frequent omission of race and identity discussions. - Adultification of children. - Overlooked cultural risks.	 ITEM 8- Race, Racism and Safeguarding  ITEM 8.1- Report- Race_Racism_Safeguarding	

	Warwickshire has established a Race, Racism, and Safeguarding subgroup to embed anti-racist principles into safeguarding practice. Key focus areas include: - Challenging adultification and stereotyping. - Promoting professional confidence to discuss race. - Ensuring access to translation services. - Monitoring ethnicity data. The subgroup is tasked with integrating these principles into review processes and quality assurance mechanisms. Partners were tasked with reflecting collaboratively on the importance of equitable treatment of children across ethnic groups and the need for honest conversations about race in safeguarding.		
8.	Practitioner Spotlight – Change, Grow, Live: SM shared frontline learning from Evolve, formerly Change, Grow, Live’s Warwickshire Young People’s Service, promoting the voice of the practitioner. This involved the presentation of a case study, which focused on a young person, aged 18, who was trafficked by an abusive partner and faced significant substance misuse challenges. The case highlighted the balance between maintaining voluntary engagement and safeguarding risks, with multi-agency collaboration providing intensive support. Despite ongoing risks, progress included reduced substance use, engagement with treatment services, and disclosure to family for support. The case underscored the importance of trust, tailored interventions, and inter-agency cooperation.	 ITEM 9- CGL- Evolve Safeguarding Present	

9.	AOB HR provided an update on Section 11 compliance, noting that reminders have been sent to partners with outstanding submissions and that there is an extended deadline of 7th January 2026. Attendees were urged to ensure timely completion.	Complete the Section 11 audit before 7 th January 2026.	Partners with outstanding submissions.
10.	Close.		

Details of the next meeting.

Date: Monday 16th March 2026

Time: 10:00 – 12:30pm

Venue: Details to follow.