

Compass Team Newsletter

Issue 6 Quarter 2 2024

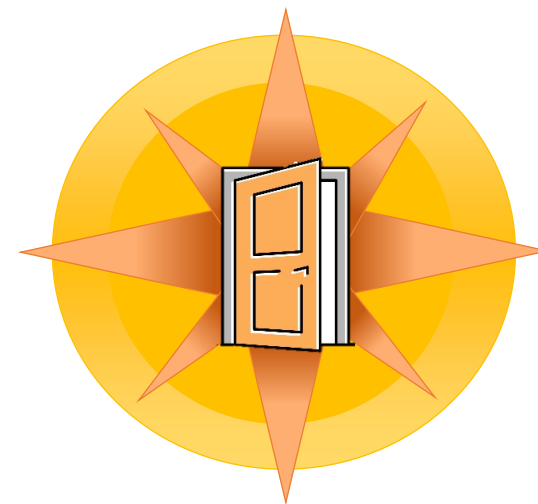
Welcome!

A warm welcome to all our partner agencies to our Fourth edition of the COMPASS newsletter.

We hope that the information contained in this newsletter is both informative and useful and will give you an overview of the work we are completing in COMPASS.

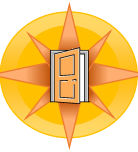
This Newsletter will focus on data obtained from Quarter 2 (July-September 2024)

Gemma Onions & Kate Owen (COMPASS Team Managers)



Themes of the Quarter

Data taken from Q2 2024 – July, August, September

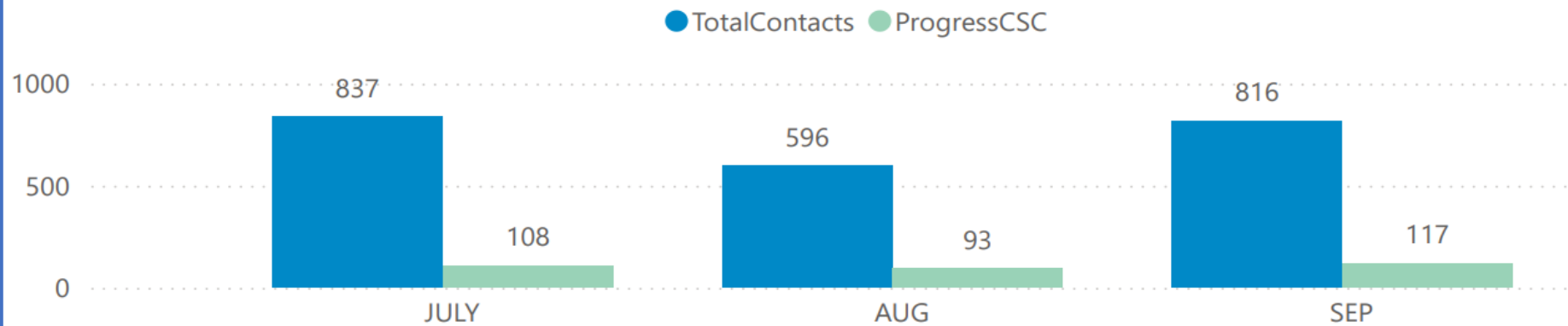


Although the total contacts received compared to last quarter has reduced (2853 in Q1), The same percentage (14%) has been progressed to social care

Total Contacts by Compass Workers

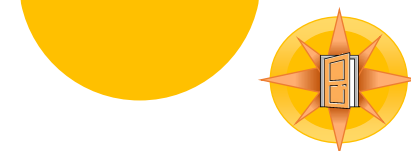
Month	TotalContacts	ProgressCSC	%
JULY	837	108	13%
AUG	596	93	16%
SEP	816	117	14%
Total	2249	318	14%

Contacts by Compass Workers



Themes of the Quarter

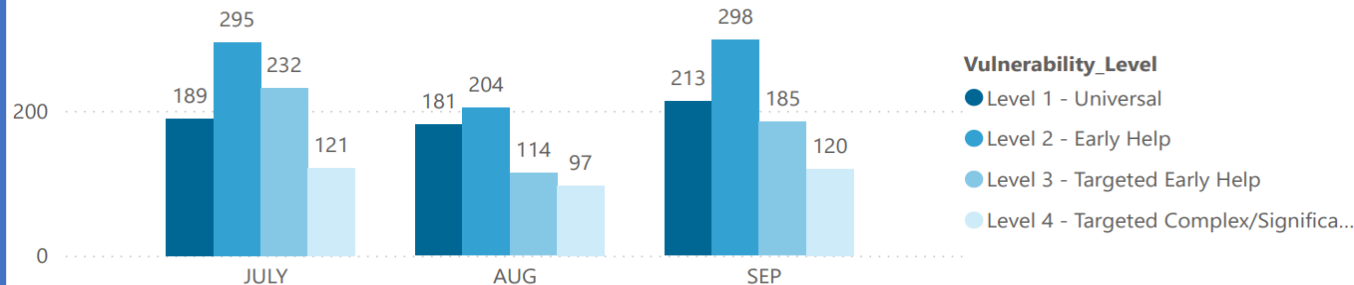
Data taken from Q2 2024 – July, August, September



Total Contacts by Compass Workers

Month	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total Contacts
JULY	193	296	235	121	837
AUG	182	206	114	97	596
SEP	214	300	186	122	816
Total	589	802	535	340	2249

Contacts by Compass Workers



We have seen an overall decrease in referrals to Level 2 Early Help compared to Q1 (1120 in Q1 compared to 802 in Q2).

Compass Strategy Discussions

StratOutcome	Strats completed by Compass/Outcome			
	D) JULY	E) AUG	F) SEP	Total
Follow-Up Strategy Discussion (FollowStratDisc)	2			2
No Further Action (NFAStrat)	3	1	1	5
No Further Action (NFAStratFollow)	1			1
Police Investigation (Police)	3	4	17	24
Progress to Early Help Episode (E-CINS) (LCSECINS)			7	7
Referral to Other Agency (ReferStrat)		2	1	3
Section 47 Enquiries (S47)	52	49	65	166
Social Work Assessment (ICSCFAssess)	1	5	4	10
Total	62	61	95	218

In Q2 there was an increase in Strategy meetings, up from 196 in Q1 to 218 in Q2. There was also an increased number of Section 47 enquiries, from 130 in Q1 to 166 in Q2.

Themes of the Quarter

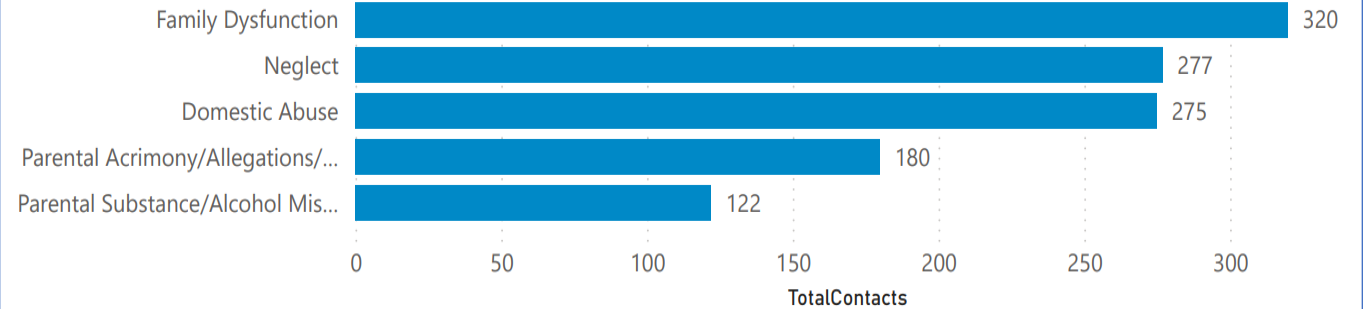
Data taken from Q2 2024 – July, August, September



Compass top 5 contact reasons

Contact Issue	Total
Family Dysfunction	320
Neglect	277
Domestic Abuse	275
Parental Acrimony/Allegations/Contact Issues	180
Parental Substance/Alcohol Misuse	122

Compass top 5 contact reasons



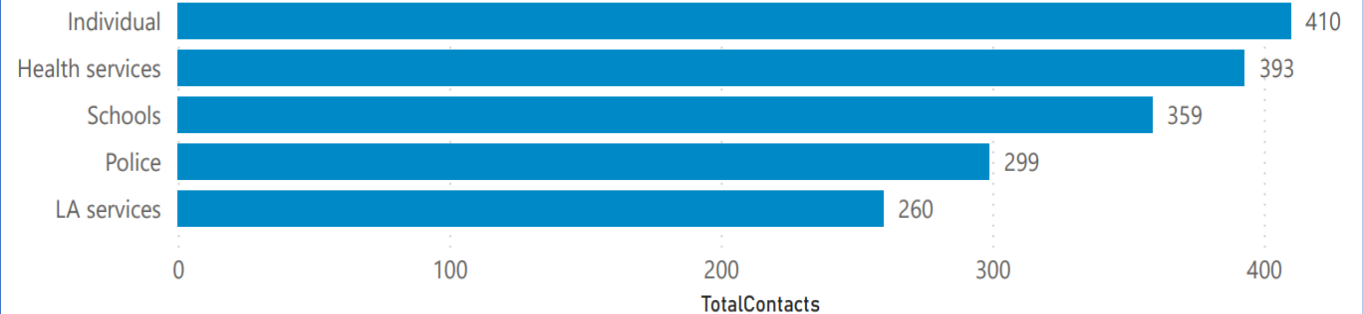
Age Band

Age Band	Total
A) 0 to 5	709
B) 6 to 18	1539
C) 19+	1
Total	2249

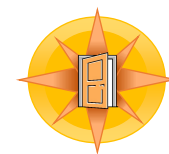
Compass top 5 referrers

Contact Source	Total
Individual	410
Health services	393
Schools	359
Police	299
LA services	260

Compass top 5 referrers



In Q2 there was an increase in Strategy meetings, up from 196 in Q1 to 218 in Q2. There was also an increased number of Section 47 enquiries, from 130 in Q1 to 166 in Q2.



NFA Audit Recommendations

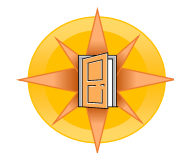
The COMPASS team managers have completed an audit of 20 case files where the outcome was NFA/ Early Help or provision of information and advice

It was identified that agencies are raising inappropriate referrals into COMPASS where threshold is not met for a safeguarding response, it was determined that 80% of the cases reviewed should not have been referred into COMPASS and another pathway should have been followed, this is despite the MARF being reviewed in May 2024 which now clearly states that COMPASS is a Level 4 service. In addition, it was identified that despite referrers knowing that COMPASS were already aware of and had reviewed the concerns they continued to make a referral sharing the same concerns with no new additional information

Prior to making a referral into COMPASS please ensure that you have considered the threshold document, please also familiarise yourself with the early help pathway and should a family be open to targeted early help please contact the allocated worker or their manager if they are unavailable for a discussion unless the concerns are of a child protection nature where the child is at risk of suffering immediate significant harm and an immediate child protection response is required.

Should you, as a professional, require advice in determining the appropriate level of support for a family please attend the **Integration Project** for a multi – agency discussion. There is a consultation form on the EH website that you can access and complete and you will be offered a slot at one of the consultations. There are currently Integration Projects at Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Ludlow and Bridgnorth.

[Please follow this link for the Early Help Website: https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help)



SPOTLIGHT ON POLICIES – STRATEGY MEETINGS

The West Midlands regional child protection procedures are applicable to all agencies/ professionals working with children. On more than one occasion children's service have convened a strategy meeting where a professional attending does not understand what a Section 47 investigation is or what the threshold is for this to be met.

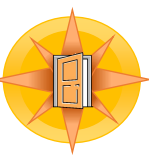
The strategy meeting/discussion should be convened by local authority children's social care. In addition to children's social care, the police and relevant health professionals, the meeting/discussion should involve all other agencies (for example, schools and nurseries) who hold information relevant to the concerns about the child. Representatives from **all relevant universal services** should be included.

Professionals participating in strategy meetings/discussions must have all their agency's information relating to the child and must be able to make decisions on behalf of their agencies.

Please ensure that when attending a strategy meeting that you understand this process and threshold decision making

West Midlands Children's Safeguarding Procedures

[West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group \(procedures.org.uk\)](http://procedures.org.uk)



The Compass Health Team is comprised of a small team of safeguarding nurses who are co-located alongside Childrens Social Care (CSC), Police and Education. Our role involves collating, interpreting, and providing health information which we access through various health systems in a timely manner to support our Children's Social Care colleagues.

When Shropshire Children's Services receive new enquiries regarding concerns for the protection and welfare of children and young people in the Shropshire area we support in providing health information in a variety of ways.

Strategy Meetings - We check the GP Summary Care Record, NHS Spine data base, Community Health Records and checks are also undertaken with Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals NHS Trust (SaTH), Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT), other health checks are also undertaken if the Safeguarding Nurse feel it's appropriate for specific health information, such as liaising with hospitals outside of area.

Safeguarding Health Checks - These checks can be as extensive as a health check for a Strategy Meeting or may just require one specific piece of health information.

Demographic Checks – These checks can be in various forms from a simple telephone number check to extensive checks with limited information, which can take time. Sometimes all we are given to help locate a child or family is a postcode or a house number to try and work out family dynamics.

We also liaise with the various GP Practices in Shropshire and the Public Health Nursing Service to gather and aid communication. The health information gathered and shared by the Safeguarding Nurses helps inform decision making around social care thresholds and levels of risk posed.

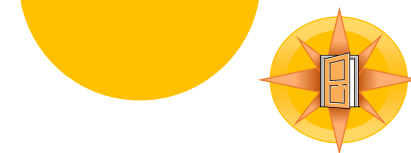
We aim to assist in providing health information requested as soon as we can, however some of the health checks undertaken can have children & families with an extensive health history and this can take time to complete. Please bear with us whilst undertaking these checks, we will return as soon as they are complete

Facts about our Team

- Compass Health and Family Connect are now known as Multi-Agency Safeguarding Nurses (MASN) and work across sites with both Local Authorities.
- Lin Harper & Kim Ashford are based in Shropshire and there are four other Nurses based in Telford: Ellie Bradley, Leny Hall, Lianne Wright, and Linda Lowe. We are due to recruit to a part time administrative post shortly.
- Abbie Clay is now on maternity leave enjoying time with her new baby Rosie!
- Louise Hanks will be leaving the team in November. We wish her luck

Reducing Parental Conflict

(RPC) in Shropshire



What is Parental Conflict?

Arguments Atmosphere Resentment
Disharmony Anger Disrespect

But no one person is controlling the other. No one is in fear.

What the evidence tells us about harmful conflict*

- Harmful conflict which is frequent intense and poorly resolved, whether parents are together or separated, places children at risk of poor social, emotional and educational outcomes

- Harmful conflict can impact on a child/young persons ability to form and sustain positive relationships with peers and also impacts on their ability to develop healthy relationships in later life

- Exposure to harmful conflict has an impact on children's physical and emotional/mental health



*** Which is frequent, intense and poorly resolved**

Learn more about Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) In Shropshire here:



OpenDocument
Presentation



How can we help you?



Getting on better

[Home](#) > [Early help](#) > [Family help services](#) > Getting on better

We all have arguments. How do you resolve yours?

Worried about your relationship or feel you're arguing too much? Not all arguing between parents is harmful but when it's intense or happens a lot of the time, there can be a negative impact on the children.

[We can find ways to argue 'better', resolve disputes and reduce the conflict at home.](#)

[Getting on better | Shropshire Council](#)



[Home](#) > [Parenting, childcare and children's services](#) > [Children's health and welfare](#)

Guidance

Reducing Parental Conflict: what is parental conflict?

Find out what reducing parental conflict is and about the work of the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme.

[Reducing Parental Conflict: what is parental conflict? - GOV.UK](#)

Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) in Shropshire



Online relationship support for parents



Parents in this area can now access **THREE ONLINE COURSES** from the relationship experts at OnePlusOne. Learn to cope with stress and communicate better, wherever you are in your parenting journey.

To access the courses, you will need a smartphone, tablet, or computer, and a good internet connection. They are all **FREE** to use, so you'll just need to select your local authority area and create an account with a username and password.

You can get started by scanning the QR code or visiting:
www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents

[One Plus One
Parent resource sign up](#)



Arguing better

Disagreements are a normal part of life. How you approach them can make all the difference to you, your partner, and your children. You will learn:

- How to recognise stress and how it can affect you.
- How to support each other through difficult times.
- What causes arguments and how to stop them.



Me, You and Baby Too

Learn how to navigate the changes that happen in a relationship when a baby arrives, including:

- How you and your partner can support each other.
- How to talk to bring up difficult topics.
- How arguments start, and how to stop them.



Getting it right for children

When parents are separating or separated, children can often get caught in the middle. Learn how to manage conflict to minimise the impact it has on your children, as well as:

- How to stop a discussion from turning into an argument.
- How to stay calm and listen as well as talk.
- Skills for finding solutions and making compromises.

Charity Spotlight

In each Newsletter we would like to highlight a charity that is close to someone in our team.



WEST MERCIA WOMEN'S AID

 Make a referral

 Donate

West Mercia Women's Aid

For a future free from Domestic Abuse

1 in 4 women in the UK will experience domestic abuse at some point in their lives. WMWA works for a world that is free from domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, where everyone can live without the fear and reality of all forms of violence, abuse and discrimination.

Our Support Services

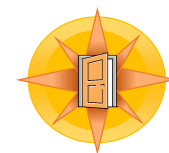
- Specialist domestic abuse Helpline which is staffed 24/7
- Refuges for women and children, and safe satellite accommodation
- One-to-one support for people living in the local community
- Specialist safety advice and advocacy by Independent Domestic Violence Advisors
- Recovery and empowerment group programmes – delivered both online and in person
- Advice and support for male victims
- Ongoing peer support for survivors, through our Survivor Network
- Individual and group programmes of support for children and for young people impacted upon by domestic abuse
- Specialist support for young people experiencing teen relationship abuse
- Bespoke training for professionals, employers and communities

If you need to talk to someone and access support over the phone, you can call:

[National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#) – 0808 2000 247 (run by Refuge)
[The Men's Advice Line](#), for male domestic abuse survivors – 0808 801 0327 (run by Respect)
[The Mix](#), free information and support for under 25s in the UK – 0808 808 4994
[National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline](#) – 0800 999 5428 (run by Galop)
[Samaritans](#) (24/7 service) – 116 123
[Rights of Women](#) advice lines, there are a range of services [available](#)

24HR DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINES:
HEREFORDSHIRE & SHROPSHIRE: 0800 783 1359
TELFORD & WREKIN: 0800 840 3747
WORCESTERSHIRE: 0800 980 3331





A note
about our
new MARF

Compass now have a new MARF – please use this document for all referrals moving forward.

[Child Safeguarding and Protection Practice – Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership](#)



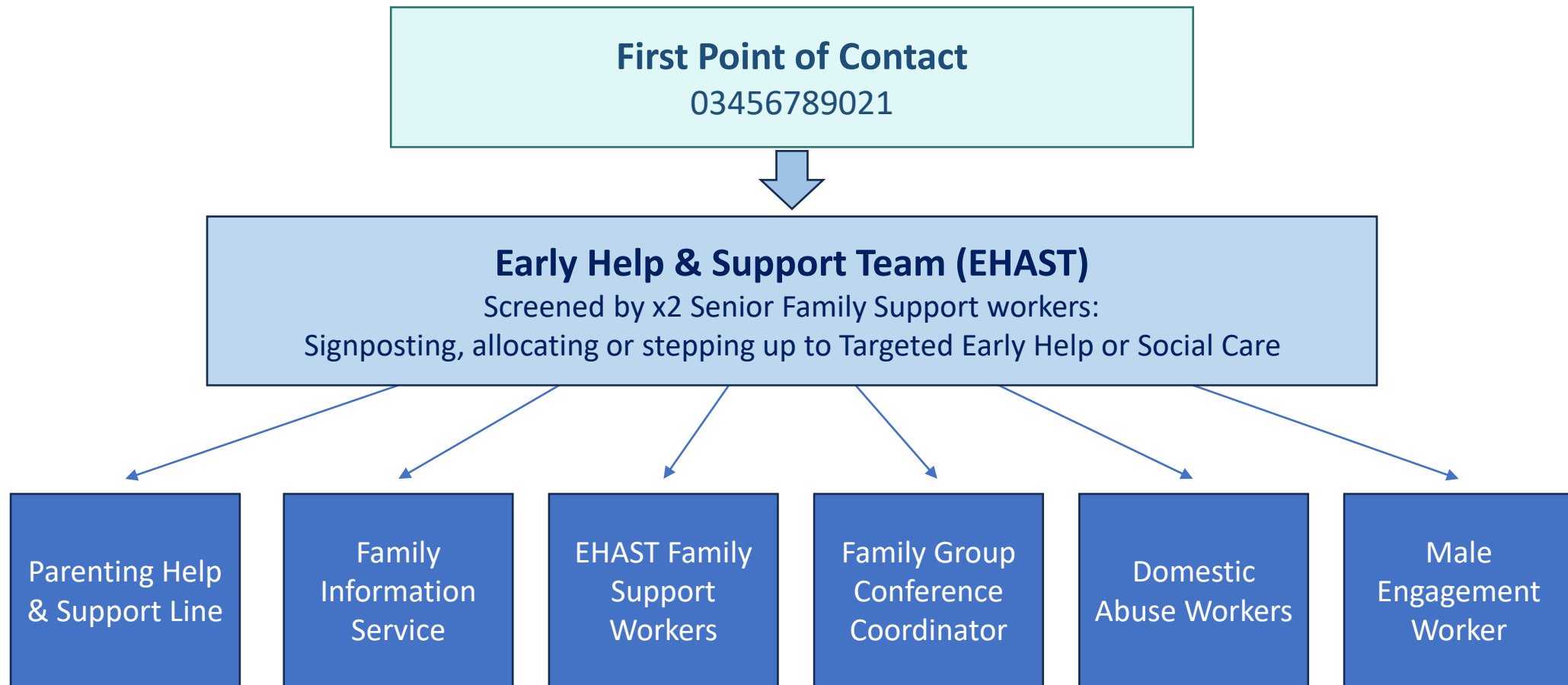
MARF May 2024

This is a reminder that MARFS should only be completed for concerns that are deemed to meet Level 4 of the threshold document.

Should you wish to access Level 2 or 3 support please follow the correct pathway (see next slide) or call First Point Of Contact (FPOC): 03456789021

Professional and Public Referral Pathway into Early Help

Level 2 (EHASt) and Level 3 (Targeted Early Help)



Key Contacts & Useful Documents



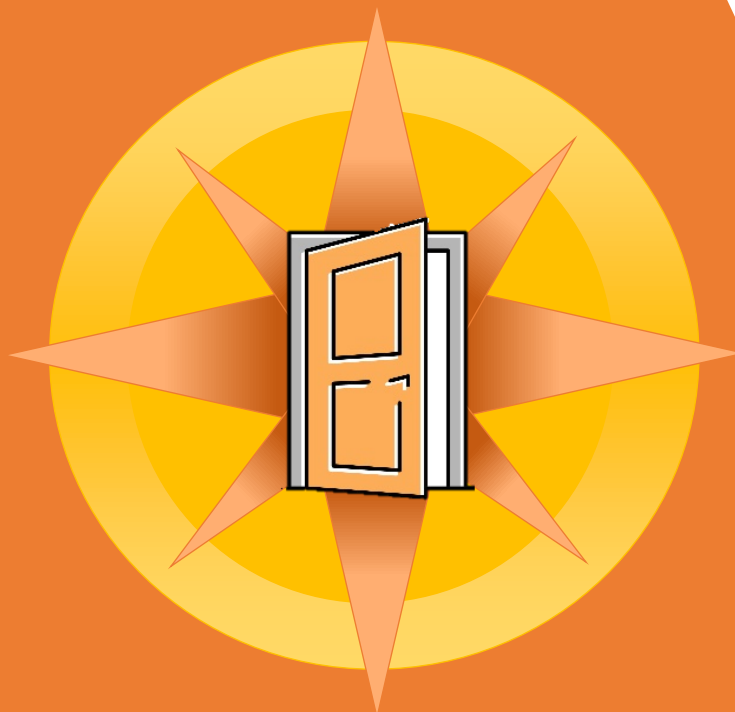
First Point of Contact (FPOC) (Compass and Initial Contact Team)	0345 678 9021
Emergency Social Work Team	0345 678 9040
West Mercia Police	101
If you think a child is in immediate danger, call the emergency services	999
Shropshire Early Help	Earlyhelp@shropshire.gov.uk
Shropshire Strengthening Families	Shropshirestrengtheningfamilies@shropshire.gov.uk
Compass - For safeguarding concerns for children	Compass.referrals@shropshire.gov.uk
Shropshire Family Information Service	01743 254400 and ShropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk
Health visitors and school nurses – single point of access (SPOA)	0333 3583654
Shropshire Housing Options	0345 678 9005
Citizen’s Advice	https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk
Domestic Abuse Helpline 24-hour	0808 2000 247
NSPCC	0808 800 5000
Family Lives – parent helpline	0808 800 2222 Parenting and Family Support - Family Lives (Parentline Plus) Family Lives
Local Offer website	The SEND local offer Shropshire Council
Shropshire Choices	Shropshire Choices Shropshire Council
All In Registrations	All In Programme Shropshire Council
Occupational Therapists via First Point of Contact	0345 678 902
We Are With You - Substance Misuse Treatment Provision	01743 294700 Shropshire - With You (wearewithyou.org.uk)

Useful links & Documents

Multi-agency guidance on Threshold Criteria to help support Children, Young People and their Families in Shropshire
[Childrens Threshold Document](#)

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership
[Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership](#)

West Midlands Children’s Safeguarding Procedures
[West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group \(procedures.org.uk\)](#)



Thank you!

Thank you for reading this issue of the Compass Newsletter.

We look forward to bringing you the next newsletter for Q3.

Gemma Onions & Kate Owen (COMPASS Team Managers)

Designed by Rebecca Bean (Compass Coordinator)