



The next steps:

Early Help:

If the Compass Hub believe that the child would benefit from extra help, or that the parent/carer needs support, they will signpost the family on to the right service, ensuring that support is provided quickly.

No Further Action:

If the Compass Hub believe that child's needs can be appropriately met by services and support already in place then no further action will be taken and the contact will be closed down.

Social Work Assessment:

If the Compass Hub decide the child is a 'child in need' or at risk of harm then the referral will progress to a Social Work Assessment and a social worker from one of the Case Management Teams will be allocated to complete the assessment.

Can a parent access help and support directly?

...Yes!

As a parent you can contact Compass for advice and/or support, if you are not already working with a professional who can help and you do this through **First Point of Contact (FPOC)** on **0345 678 9021**

For more information on the definitions of Children in Need and the Local Authority's duties and responsibilities see the Children Act 1989 and/or the Shropshire Safeguarding Board procedures on Referrals and Thresholds at www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/scb



**Shropshire
Strengthening
Families**

COMPASS

Getting the 'right help at the right time'
to strengthen families and safeguard children

Shropshire's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).




What is Compass?



- Compass is the single point of contact for receiving NEW enquiries regarding concerns for the welfare or protection of Children and Young People in Shropshire.
- Compass promotes the offer of early help to children and families in the first instance, where it is safe to do so.
- Compass provides other professionals with support and guidance in completing assessments for early help and delivering early help plans.

The Compass team is made up from a range of agencies, and professionals, working together, which include:

- Social Workers
 - Police
 - Probation
 - Health
 - Targeted Youth Workers
 - Family Support Workers
 - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
 - Family Information Service
 - Child Sexual Exploitation/Missing Coordinator
 - Information Coordinators
- 

What happens in Compass?

Whenever anyone is worried about a child, for example a school teacher, they make contact with Compass to discuss their worries, this is called an 'initial concern'. One of the compass team will talk to the referrer to agree how best to offer early help to a child, young person or family. As part of this process a compass worker may contact the family direct or this contact may be done through the referring professional.

Where an initial concern identifies that a child may be a 'child in need' by this we mean they may need services to promote their welfare the initial concern will be progressed to a "Referral" and the professionals, within Compass, will share information that their own agency holds between each other to gather a fuller picture to inform the decision on the most appropriate next steps. A Child in Need is often referred to as Section 17 child in need, referencing the Children Act 1989.

Where a concern identifies that a child might be at risk of significant harm, a social worker will liaise with professionals within and outside of Compass to decide what actions need to be taken to keep a child safe. A Child at risk of significant harm is often referred to as Section 47 child protection, referencing the Children Act 1989.

Can information be shared without my permission?

We encourage all professionals who make contact with Compass to discuss their worries with parents in the first instance, and to seek parental consent before making contact with us. If this doesn't happen someone from Compass may call parents in the first instance to discuss the initial concern we have received and seek parental consent for information sharing.



Information may be shared without your permission if:

- A child or young person is believed to be at risk of significant harm.
- The information could be used to prevent or solve a crime.

And:

- Within the Compass Hub professionals will share (known and relevant) information between agencies to help us decide what actions are needed when we receive a "Referral".

