

Compass Team Newsletter

Issue 1 Spring 2023

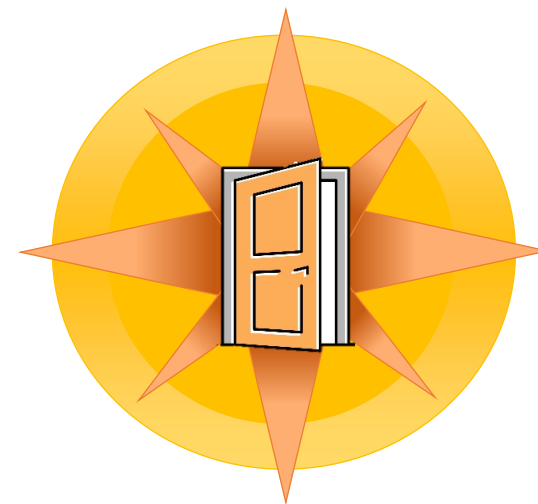
Welcome!

A warm welcome to all of our partner agencies to our new COMPASS newsletter.

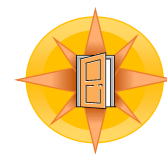
We hope that the information contained in this newsletter is both informative and useful and will give you an overview of the work we are completing in COMPASS.

This Newsletter will focus on data obtained from Quarter 1 (April – June 2023)

Gemma Onions & Kate Owen (COMPASS Team Managers)



What is Compass?



Team Managers	Senior/Social Workers	Coordinators	Admin
Gemma Onions	Suzanne Treherne	Sadie Bates	Ceri Ellis
Kate Owen	Gill Berry	Sarah Yardley	Francesca Pancosta
	Lynn McKnight	Liz Young	Jean Wilson
	Sammy Harrop	Tish Pugh	Jodie Kendrick
	Kristie Drew	Rebecca Bean	Kirsty Pilgrim
	Sarah Stevens		Sharon Wood
	Jamie Morgan		Tracy Turner
	Manuela Sotheran		Sam Ford

Compass is comprised of a group of teams which ensure the smooth running of Shropshire Children’s Services Front Door, screening all new concerns about children in Shropshire.

- On receipt of concerns being received into Compass our Senior Social Workers review the current concerns, alongside reviewing historical information. Following this they may undertake enquiries such as speaking to parent/carers and undertaking relevant agency checks to explore the concerns. A final decision is reached using the Threshold document, and relevant research and policies that apply, and progress each case through to the appropriate level of need. In cases where a Strategy meeting is required, Senior Social Workers chair the strategy meetings to gain a better understanding of the circumstances from a multi-agency perspective.
- Our Coordinators pull together database checks and research for each case we receive so that the Senior Social Workers can start reviewing the case information as quickly as possible. They also process outcomes from the different Triage meetings that we facilitate, progress forms through to our database system, and manage the email inbox and work trays.
- Compass Admin assist with organising and minuting strategy meetings, triages, and general administration to support the social workers. Our admin team also assist with information requests, adding Other Local Authority Children information, and process Nationwide Missing Notifications.

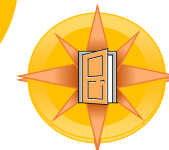
External Agencies	
HAU Shrewsbury	Harm Assessment Unit – Representatives of West Mercia Police
Compass Health / PHNS Vulnerable Families	Shropshire Community Health – Representatives of NHS

External Agencies

We are co-located with the HAU (Police) and Health.

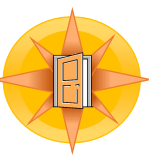
- We support each other with demographic checks, information sharing and Triage co-working.
- Both Health and HAU attend our multi-agency strategy meetings as core members.

Key Contacts



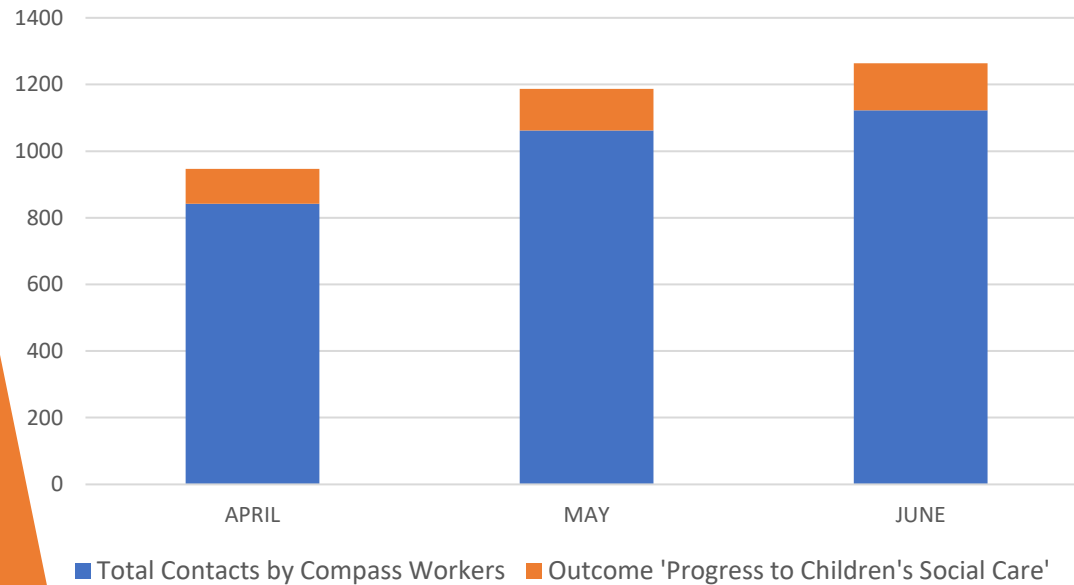
First Point of Contact (FPOC) (Compass and Initial Contact Team)	0345 678 9021
Emergency Social Work Team	0345 678 9040
West Mercia Police	101
If you think a child is in immediate danger, call the emergency services	999
Shropshire Early Help	Earlyhelp@shropshire.gov.uk
Shropshire Strengthening Families	Shropshirestrengtheningfamilies@shropshire.gov.uk
Compass - For safeguarding concerns for children	compassreferrals@shropshire.gov.uk
Shropshire Family Information Service	01743 254400 and ShropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk
Shropshire Housing Options	0345 678 9005
Family Information Service	01743 254400 shropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk
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 http://www.familylives.org.uk
Local Offer website	http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer
Shropshire Choices	https://www.shropshirechoices.org.uk/home
All In Registrations	http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/parentcarers/socialcare/short-breaks-activities
Occupational Therapists via First Point of Contact	0345 678 902

Themes of the Month



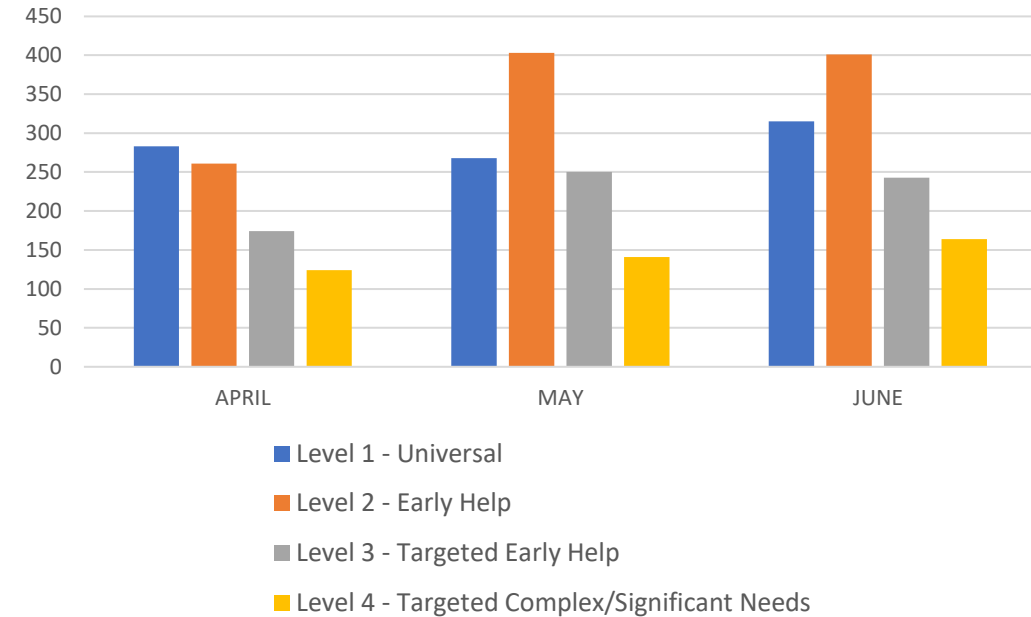
Data taken from Q1 2023 – April, May, June

Total Contacts by Compass Workers

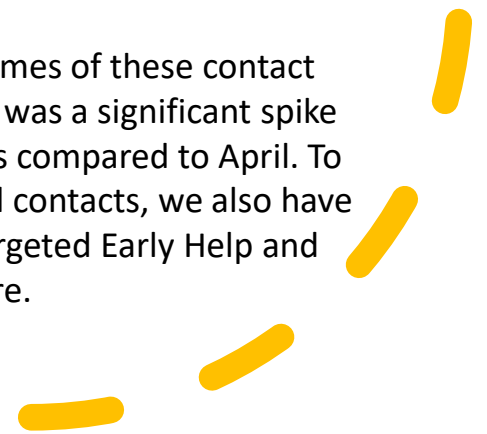


In Q1, Compass raised a total of 3027 EHM contact forms. On average, 12% of these were progressed to Children’s Social Care. We have seen an increase in the number of contacts in May and June compared to April.

Vulnerability Level Breakdown



Above we can see the outcomes of these contact forms: In May and June there was a significant spike in Level 2 Early Help outcomes compared to April. To mirror the spike in overall total contacts, we also have an increase outcomes for Targeted Early Help and Social Care.

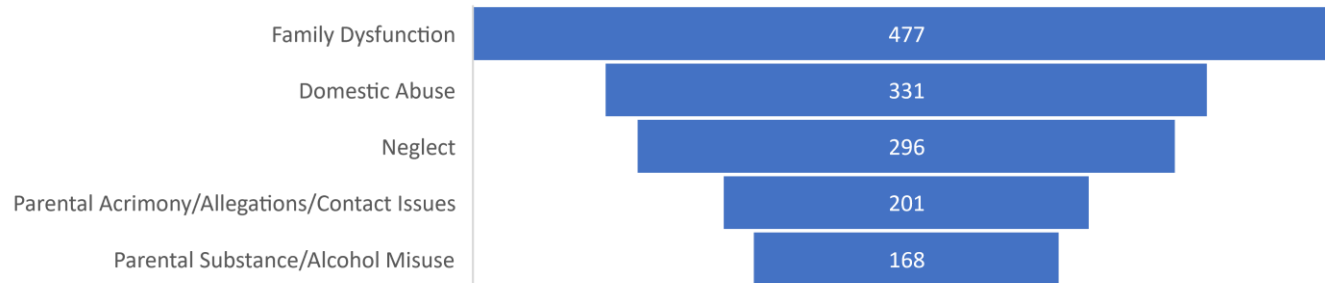




Our data reveals that **Family Dysfunction, Domestic Abuse** and **Neglect** were the most common reasons for concerns being raised into COMPASS during this Quarter 1.

The most common referrers were **Police, Individual or Family member,** and **Education.**

Top 5 Contact Reason Codes



Top 5 Referrers



Useful links & Documents

Multi-agency guidance on Threshold Criteria to help support Children, Young People and their Families in Shropshire

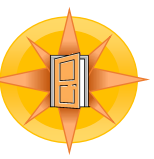
[shropshire-threshold-document-v25-march-2017.pdf](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/1000000/shropshire-threshold-document-v25-march-2017.pdf)

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership
Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

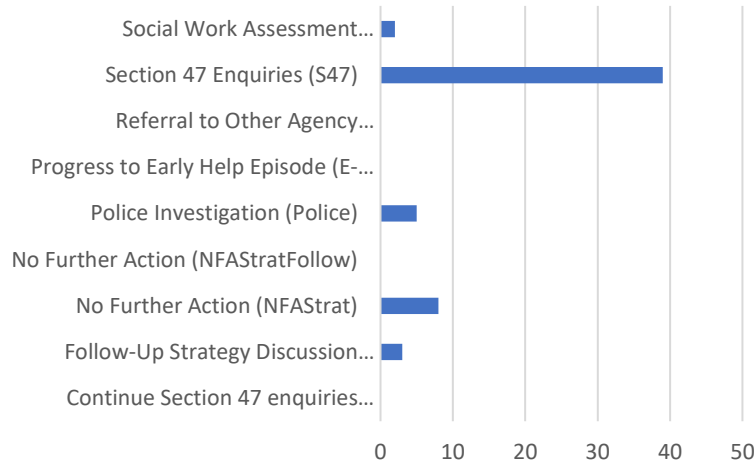
West Midlands Children’s Safeguarding Procedures

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

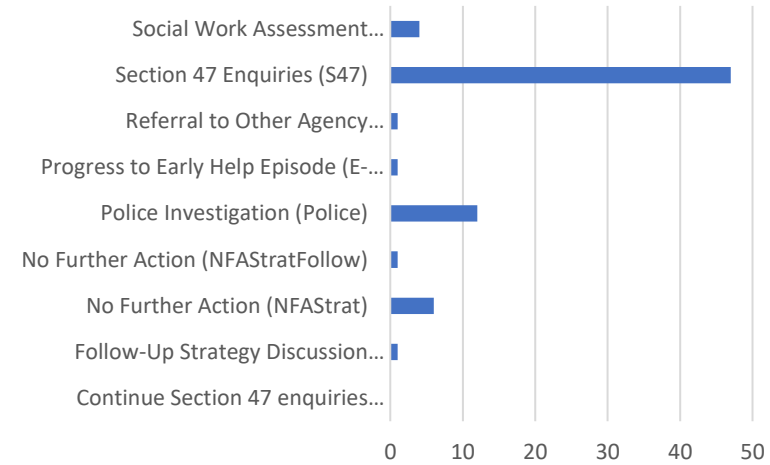
Compass Strategy Meeting Outcomes for Q1



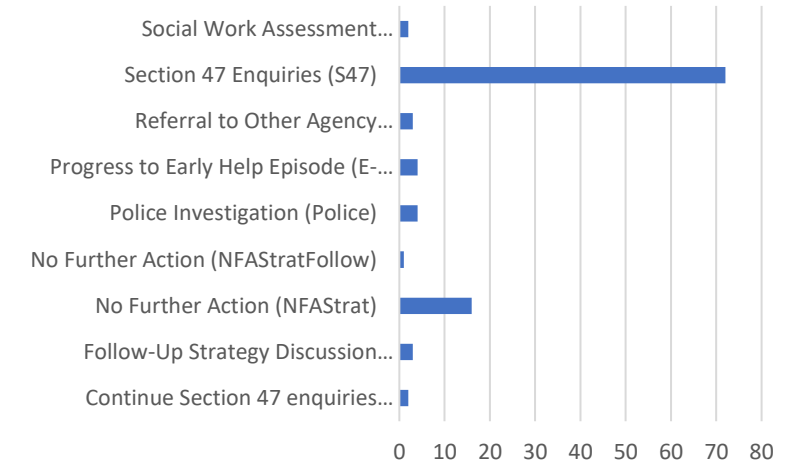
APRIL



MAY

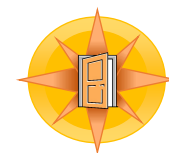


JUNE



The majority of strategy meetings across Quarter 1 resulted in a section 47 investigation (child protection investigation) being undertaken.

Triage Updates



Domestic Abuse Triage

This triage takes place daily to discuss and level domestic abuse incidents across Shropshire. Continual improvements to workflow and processing are made which ensure appropriate safeguarding. This triage is seen as an area of good practice across the West Midlands and has good multi-agency representation across the partnership.

Health Triage

This triage has been in place for over 12 months and has been successful in improving information sharing between Compass and Health. This triage reviews notifications from West Midlands Ambulance notifications, NHS 111 call reports (if children have been present) and SATH (Shropshire & Telford Hospital) where children or adults have presented at A&E. Each child discussed is offered support/intervention at the appropriate level, if not already in place.

Child Incident Triage

Chaired by the HAU this new triage has been in place for 3 months. The purpose of the triage is to review police incidents that involve children. Each child discussed is offered support/intervention offered at the appropriate level, if not already in place.

Multi Agency Triage

MAT has been in place for a number of years and its primary purpose is to discuss cases where the referrer has no ongoing involvement with the family (such as NSPCC) and where Compass have not been able to contact a parent to discuss the concerns despite several attempts. Police Intelligence cases also are taken to MAT to be discussed in a multi-agency forum.

AUDIT activity

We regularly undertake themed audits to review current practices and decision making and make recommendations to improve the service.

During Quarter 1 we have undertaken the following audits:

- Anonymous referrers
The findings found that SSW are evidencing professional curiosity in their enquiries and due consideration is given to anonymous referrals
- Exploitation strategy meetings chaired by COMPASS
Education was actively involved in all 5 cases reviewed. The auditors felt that 4 out of the 5 cases did not require a strategy meeting as the risk of harm was not imminent and the case would have had more specialised oversight going through the exploitation pathway initially.
- SWA which resulted in step down to early help
We explored if a SWA was required or could intervention by EH/ CHAST at an earlier stage have prevented the need for escalation – Five cases were reviewed, the auditors reviewed each concern and felt that all 5 cases did require a SWA due to the level of risk in the presenting information. The auditors agreed that proportionate enquiries were made, and sound threshold decisions were evidenced in the contacts, with evidence of cross reference to the threshold document.
- S47 investigations which led to SWA or NFA
10 cases were reviewed by the auditors, The strategy meeting and subsequent s.47 enquiry was deemed necessary and proportionate for 5 of the cases, the 5 that weren't the auditors felt could have been explored via a social work assessment (following the strategy meeting), one of which we felt needed to be unpicked further with mother prior to convening a strategy meeting (medical neglect).
- Health Triage audit
This dip sample audit has highlighted that the Health triage is an effective mechanism for triaging concerns and ensuring support is offered to families. It reduces duplication and ensures quick and efficient decision making.

Charity Spotlight

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

This Quarter we would like to highlight **LITTLE STARS** – A charity that supports vulnerable families all over Shropshire - ranging from baby packs to ensure you have your hospital essentials for when the time is right, to pre-loved baby and children's clothing, to essential equipment and pre-loved school uniforms, and new presents so every child has something to open at Christmas.



About Little Stars

Our vision at Little Star's is to ensure babies and children across Shropshire have access to the basic essentials that they need to feel safe and secure.

- Helping families when times are challenging.
- Working with professionals to support families.
- Ensuring parents and their children have the basic essentials.

Our Campaigns

Baby Bank

From hospital bag essentials to Moses baskets and baths, our baby bank offers those vital essentials to the families who need them most.

Tots to teens


Children grow (fact!) and still deserve clean clothing and essentials throughout pre-school, school and teenage years. Our pre-loved supply of clothing is here for you, along with essential toiletries to ensure every child has what they need.

Cool for School

We work with schools and organisations across Shropshire to supply school uniforms to those who need them. Every child deserves to be proud to wear their uniform just like their peers.

Accessing support from Little Stars is super-simple and can come as a referral through professionals such as doctors, midwives and health visitors, as well as through appropriate voluntary organisations. Unfortunately, we don't accept self-referrals.

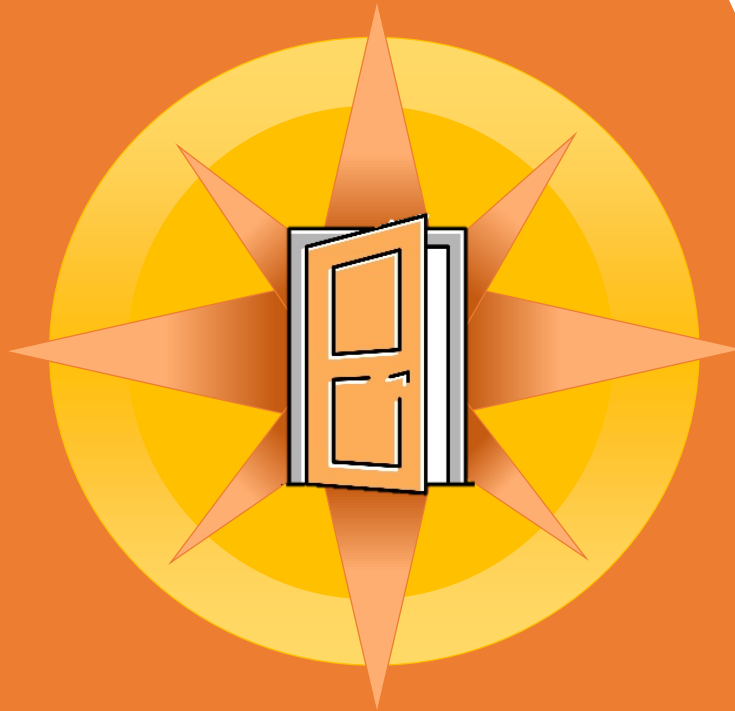
Are you a referral partner or healthcare professional working with a family needing our help?
To refer a family to Little Stars, please complete the [online form](#)



Little Stars works with professionals including midwives, GPs, housing associations, schools, social services, domestic abuse charities and many more to provide these essential items for the children.



Make a Referral



Thank you!

Thank you for reading this issue of the Compass Newsletter.

We look forward to bringing you the next newsletter for Q2.

Gemma Onions & Kate Owen (COMPASS Team Managers)

Designed by Rebecca Bean (Compass Coordinator)