



2024/25 ANNUAL REPORT

Compass & Assessment Teams

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Contacts

Contacts	QTR1			QTR2			QTR3			QTR4			Total
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	
EHM Contact Record	1035	1032	982	881	622	894	858	911	909	1022	860	961	10967
LCS Contact Record	9	2	1	4	8	5	3	0	5	2	5	3	47
Total	1044	1034	983	885	630	899	861	911	914	1024	865	964	11014

Analysis:

From the above data we can see that at the end of Quarter 1 we had received 3,061 contacts (which is a 4.16% decrease on the previous year), end of Quarter 2 we had received 2,414 contacts (which is a 13.1% decrease at the same point in the previous year), end at Quarter 3 we had received 2,686 contacts (which is a 2.58% decrease compared to the same point in the previous year) and end of Quarter 4 we had received 2,853 contacts (which is a 0.11% decrease compared to the same point in the previous year).

Looking at the month by month data, April, May and January were the busiest months in term of demand into Compass and is likely a result of school's reopening following a period of closure. September, whilst was busier compared to August, is unusually in line with most of the year (we normally see a spike following the 6 week summer holidays).

Overall, there were 571 fewer contacts received over 24/25 as compared to 23/24 equating to a 4.93% decrease.

Sources of referrer:

In line with the previous year the top 3 referrers, remain the same with schools accounting for the highest number of contacts at 2582, health services were second at 1786 and individuals were third at 1,569. This is the second year running that Police have not featured within our top 3 referrers (they were fourth at 1,444 contacts).

Outcome of contacts: of the 11,014 contacts received just 1,446 progressed to children social care this equates to 13.12 % (this is slightly increased from the previous year which was **11.8%**) this is the first year within the last 4 years we have seen this increase. The highest proportion of contacts are stepped down to early help (5700 equating to 51.75%), which is in line with our practice principle of right intervention, at the right time.

Referrals

Referrals	QTR1			QTR2			QTR3			QTR4			Total
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	
New Referral	89	108	148	116	94	109	89	105	111	132	103	106	1310
Re-referral (<12 Mths)	18	24	26	11	9	15	8	22	13	10	25	13	194
Total	107	132	174	127	103	124	97	127	124	142	128	119	1504

Analysis:

Referrals are converted from contacts, so all the above data relates to the contact data reported in table 1 above. From this data, we can determine that overall we received 1504 referrals which is lower (1.25% **decrease**) than the previous year which was 1523. June accounts to the highest number of referrals accepted over the year and is in line with a high number of contacts received in May this is also consistent with the previous year where we saw 162 referrals in June 23.

In regard to re-referrals, we received 194 and this equates to (12.90% of the total referrals) which is a very slight decrease on the previous year where we received 200. Shropshire's re-referral rate remains lower than statistical neighbours and the national average. This is most likely due to effective support and intervention being put into place by Children's Social Care, meaning when children and families step out and down from Children Social Care into universal or level 2 and 3 support provisions, this is timely and appropriate. We also now have EHAST in place which identifies families at an earlier point, offering additional help, support and advice. All Local Authorities see some children re-referred back into service, so it is not unusual or unsurprising when this happens and our continued low re-referral rates remains reassuring, as always.

Strategy meetings:

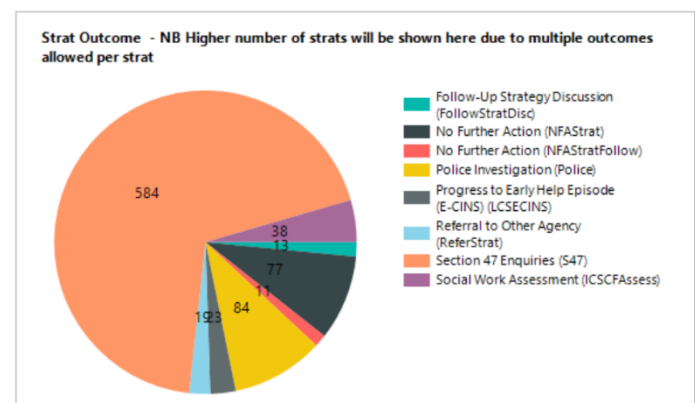
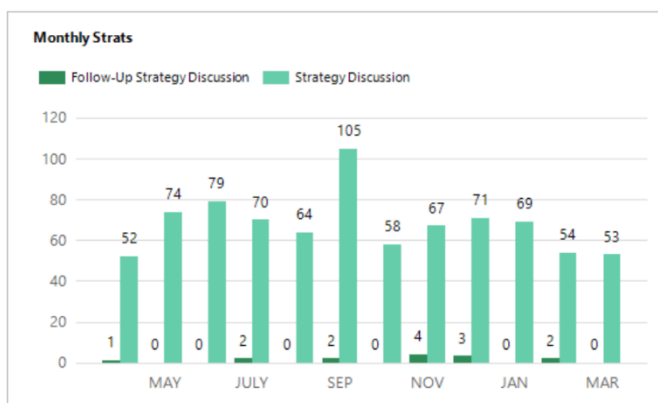
Strats	QTR1			QTR2			QTR3			QTR4			Total
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	
Follow-Up Strategy Discussion	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	3	0	2	0	14
Strategy Discussion	52	74	79	70	64	105	58	67	71	69	54	53	816
Total	53	74	79	72	64	107	58	71	74	69	56	53	830

Analysis:

Overall there were 830 strategy meetings held (including follow up strategy meetings) within Compass, this is lower than the number held in the previous year which was 1004 and represents a **17.3% decrease**. This decrease has now been seen for 3 years running.

September was clearly busiest month (107) , following a period of school closure.

The breakdown of strategy meetings in regard to outcomes is as follows:



As we can see from this data, 584 strategy meetings led to a s.47 enquiries (child protection investigation), which is the biggest proportion of all outcomes, as we would expect to see, given the threshold of ‘reasonable cause to suspect significant harm’ being the trigger for a strategy meeting. The high proportion leading to investigation indicates good application of this threshold.

Often these investigations will be conducted jointly with police, where there is concern of serious harm and offences having been committed such as physical harm, sexual abuse or neglect. The data shows a reduction (**3.63% decrease**) on the previous year which saw 606 strategy meetings leading to s.47 enquiries. We have undertaken a lot of focus over the 12 months on strategy meetings, ensuring that only where necessary and proportionate do we take such action, as it can be seen to be oppressive in nature and where we have parents showing insight and willingness to engage in an assessment and social work intervention we prefer to work restoratively as this often improves the outcomes for children. This is in line with feedback from the Warwickshire peer review held in July 2024 and the principles set out in the Social Care review (Josh MacAlistair).

s.47 child protection investigations:

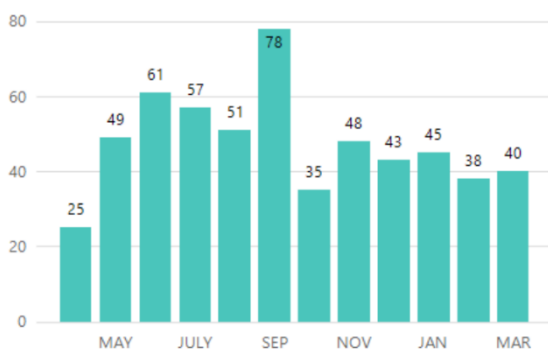
S47	QTR1			QTR2			QTR3			QTR4			Total
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	
Total	25	49	61	57	51	78	35	48	43	45	38	40	<u>496</u>

Analysis:

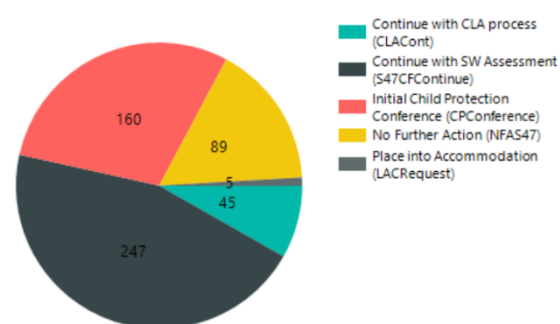
Of the 830 strategy meetings held, 584 resulted in a s.47 investigation, 496 of which were completed within 24/25 (some will roll over to the next financial year and data therefore will be shown in Q1 of the next financial year).

The outcomes of the s.47 investigations are recorded as follows:

Monthly S47 Completed



Outcomes



As we can see from the above chart, the biggest proportion of s.47 investigations were stepped down to s.17 SWA (247 representing 42.3%). We can also see that 5 children (0.9%) became looked after through the course of the s.47 (therefore not requiring an ICPCC) which is a reduction on the previous year which accounted for 6.4% of the total number. As a service we continue to reassure ourselves that we are not disproportionately investigating children and families through regular auditing activity. As discussed above this is a current area of focus, only 27.4% of the total number led to an ICPCC.

Initial Child Protection Case Conferences:

ICPC	QTR1			QTR2			QTR3			QTR4			Total
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	
In Timescale	23	10	27	29	22	20	0	3	0	7	18	39	198
Out of Timescale	12	19	13	4	3	7	22	15	10	21	2	0	128
Total	35	29	40	33	25	27	22	18	10	28	20	39	326

Analysis:

There were 326 children subject to an initial child protection case conferences held in total through the year, which is an increase **(27.8%)** to the previous year, this will be in regard to all children across the services and not necessarily just new children entering into children's social care, for example these will also include children stepping up from Child in Need plans. June 2024 saw the most conferences at 30. 128 children subject to a conference were held outside of the 15 day timescale which equates to 39.26% which has been a worsening position for the fourth year running (**23.92% - 23/24 and 15.06% - 22/23, and 11.30% - 21/22**) there has been a focus on this area of performance as monitored through the regular ChAT reporting and you can see an improvement in the data from February 25 onwards.

s.17 Social Work Assessments:

SWA	QTR1			QTR2			QTR3			QTR4			Total
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	
In Timescale	28	23	41	25	31	29	32	35	47	61	78	85	515
Out of Timescale	0	20	12	22	55	21	35	21	18	18	19	19	260
Total	28	43	53	47	86	50	67	56	65	79	97	104	775

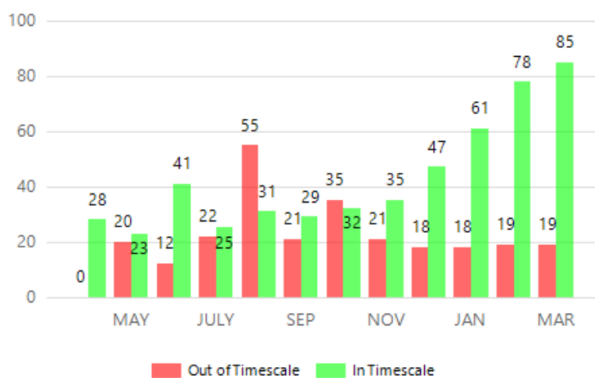
Analysis:

There was a total of 775 s.17 Social Work Assessments fully completed throughout 24/25, which is **224.27% more** than the previous year (379). This is due to a focus on updated social work assessments across the system as reported in last year's annual report we had seen a big decline in this performance as a result of LCS implementing a CLA review report (rather than

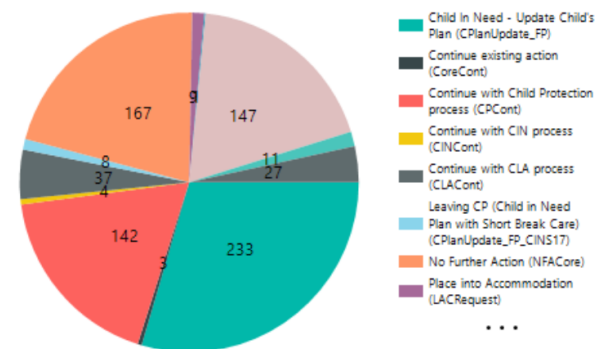
an updated SWA), our data is now much more in line with previous years. March saw the highest number of assessments having been completed which collaborates with the focus on updated assessments ahead of our ILACS inspection. 260 SWAs (33.5%) were completed outside of the national 45 working day timeframe, which for the first year in five years is an improved area of performance despite the massive increase in overall numbers of assessments completed (previous year was 164 SWAs (43.3%) completed outside of timescale).

The outcomes of the SWA are recorded as follows:

Monthly SWA Completed



Outcomes: NB Higher number of assessments will be shown here due to multiple outcomes allowed per assessment



The above data shows that 142 of SWAs (109 last year), equating to 18.3% (fewer than previous year at 28.8%) led to no further action, which evidences better thresholding at the front door.

Staffing position:

The staffing position across Compass, Assessment Teams and TREES has largely remained stable. There has been some movement of staff, as can be expected.

Compass:

6 FTE Senior Social Workers

1 PTE Social Worker

4.5 Information Coordinators

1.5 Team Manager

Business support

Multi-agency co-location within Compass:

Multi- Agency Safeguarding (MAS) Nurses

***Harm Assessment Unit (West Mercia Police) are no longer co-located within Compass as a result of their Management of Change and have now formed one single Vulnerability Unit (as opposed to 4 separate Harm Assessment Units in each of the 4 Local Authority areas that West Mercia Covers).

Assessment Teams

North:

1 Team Manager

5 Social Workers

2 Senior Social Workers

1 x full time Family Support Worker

South:

1 Team Manager

5 Social Workers

2 Senior Social Workers

1 x full time Family Support Worker

Multi-agency partnerships:**Developments:**

Compass Steering Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis, this includes Children Social Care (lead), West Mercia Police, Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service, Probation NPS, Probation CRC, Youth Justice Service, Housing, Midwifery, SATH, PHN and Education. This meeting provides an opportunity to discuss any issues pertinent to the front door (Compass), sharing of data and strengthening relationships across the partnership. Meets quarterly.

Joint Decision Making Panel is a fortnightly panel held with Youth Justice Service, Children Social Care began to participate in this panel from 1st November 2019 and have continued to contribute on a fortnightly basis. This panel affords the opportunity to discuss young people who are committing offences to access early help and support this can divert young people from the criminal justice process which otherwise may impact on their life chances. Children Social Care attending and contributing to this meeting means that we are able to provide key information that provides a broader understanding of the child's lived experiences so that they are not just perceived as offenders/perpetrators but that often they were victims foremost of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

NSPCC bi monthly telephone consultations are held between Jeanette Hill and NSPCC this offers an opportunity to jointly dip sample any children who are

subject to repeat referrals to NSPCC and to ensure all referrals from NSPCC to Compass have been followed up and outcomes provided to the NSPCC.

Wolverhampton and Telford Private Law Sub Group – held on a quarterly basis, provides an opportunity for Shropshire Children Services to influence and contribute to developments and improvements around private law. Jeanette Hill represents the region at these meetings (first attended in November 2020). We are working on a project across the region to implement ‘pathfinders’ which will launch in November 2025 and see a radical overhaul of private law proceedings which will hopefully see a reduction in s.37 investigations and the implementation of a new Child Impact Report (replacing s.7 reports).

DCT triage meets as and when is required (dependent upon demand), the group consists of CSC, Disabled Children’s Team Manager, TEH and health. The group is focused on requests for assessment for a child with disabilities. The group will consider the child’s needs, the parents desired outcomes and how these will be best met and by which service.

Pitstop – This is a police led meeting that has replaced the former Domestic Abuse Triage and Multi Agency Triage Meeting. It was implemented at the end of Q4/beginning of Q1 2024. It discusses all police led contacts including domestic abuse, child incidents and intel. It meets daily (virtually) and is chaired, facilitated and minuted by police. It is multi agency and there are a number of partner agencies committed to attending this meeting including LA, Police, Probation, YJS, SRP, Adult Services, Housing.

Annual Report prepared by:

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Compass, Assessment Teams, and TREES

October 2025