

Trauma Informed Practice  
Family Toolbox

## Introduction and Background

- The statutory safeguarding partners welcome you to this summary of the WSCP annual report for 2023-24. The full report is available on the WSCP website: [Annual Report 2023-24 - Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership](#).
- The report aims to provide an assessment of multi-agency activity to safeguard children, and includes a summary of WSCP key activity, including [case reviews](#), [auditing](#), [performance information](#) and [training](#) across the partnership as well as [progress against priorities](#).
- Background is also provided about the [structure and membership of the WSCP](#), our committees and our model of [independent](#) scrutiny.
- The report highlights how we communicate including the [43,000 visits to our website!](#)

Zillo Website for Young People

Harm Outside the Home

HAF

## Journey of the Child

- The report provides a view of Wirral's children profile with the If Wirral had 100 children graphic. It also presents an illustration of Disparity in Wirral, highlighting where the greatest need is.
- Early Help and Prevention—demand for early help increased significantly during 2023. The early help offer in Wirral remains very strong, and was praised by Ofsted. The Cradle to Career project in Birkenhead continues to support local communities and divert families away from social care. The Family Toolbox also provided one-stop help to many families.
- Children's Social Care—performance information shows there were over 24,000 contacts in 23/24 with one-third converting to referrals. In March 2024 there were 372 children subject to a child protection plan, 2819 children in need, and 777 children looked after, which has fallen since 2022.

Learning Reviews

Restorative Practice

Cherish Strategy

## Systemic Practice

- Systemic Practice was launched as the multi-agency partnership model of practice in October 2023. To prepare for the launch training for the workforce has been delivered since September 2022 to over 600 staff.
- Systemic Practice is a relationship based model which emphasises people's relationships as key to understanding their experiences. It also stresses the importance for families to be able to build strong, trusting and purposeful relationships with the practitioners supporting them.
- As well as training the WSCP has also published briefings, resources and guidance on the [virtual systemic practice hub](#), and has delivered a number of skills workshops. A practice lead is also in post in children's services to support practitioners and teams with using the model in practice.
- The WSCP have also partnered with the Centre for Systemic Social Work, and staff are now receiving advanced training in the model.

Systemic Practice Model

The Big Learn Event

### Babies Cry You Can Cope ICON Campaign

### Learning from Audits

### Early Childhood Services Case Study

### Neglect and GCP2

Domestic Abuse Hub

Early Help Alliance

Noah Review

Cradle to Career

Section 11/175 Audits

## Case Reviews and Auditing

- In 2023 the WSCP published the Child Noah and Child Ollie Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Noah tragically died at home, and although his death was not suspicious the case highlighted the complexities of working with families with multiple issues. Ollie died as a result of injuries sustained by co-sleeping. The case highlighted the importance of safe sleep messaging
- Learning reviews were also completed on Emily and Lily who suffered abuse and neglect, and the Taylor children who suffered physical abuse. A review was also undertaken on behalf of the LA into a case managed by the SEND service
- The WSCP undertook a number of multi-agency audits about the number of 0-5 children looked after, impact of parental substance misuse, pre-birth arrangements and child exploitation. The WSCP also continued to deliver its comprehensive S11/175 programme of safeguarding audits of partner organisations, schools and colleges

Domestic Abuse Case Study

7 Minute Briefings

## Training and the Big Learn

- Throughout 2023-24 the WSCP continued to deliver a comprehensive [programme of multi-agency training](#) and [training for schools and colleges](#). During 2023 the WSCP delivered 60 full multi-agency training events to 956 practitioners from across the partnership, and 31 events to 493 staff from education
- 50% of attendees were from the LA, with strong attendance from health agencies, education, early years, police, criminal justice, and the voluntary and community sector.
- Feedback about training remains extremely positive, with many professionals providing examples of how the training has helped them make a real difference to children and families.
- As well as traditional training courses the WSCP has also delivered a programme of shorter [spotlight briefings](#), and continues to publish [7 minute briefings](#) and other resources.
- The annual [Big Learn safeguarding event](#) in 2023 was attended by over 300 professionals, and included 18 different presentations and briefings, and a market place of 32 organisations.

Spotlight Sessions

Combating Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

Sandbox Website for Professionals

## Priorities for 24-25

- The report includes a [summary of progress](#) against the priorities from 2023, including what was achieved and what remains to do. The report also sets out the WSCP's three key priorities for 2024-25 in its [Business Plan](#):
  - ♦ [Embedding Systemic Practice](#) - During 2024 the WSCP will begin the embedding phase of systemic practice. This means we will audit and gather feedback from practitioners, services and families to evidence the impact of the model of practice.
  - ♦ [Safeguarding and Education](#)- Building on the establishment of a safeguarding in education committee, the WSCP as part of the Pathfinder programme will, over the next 12 months, test the new roles of lead and delegated safeguarding partners for education.
  - ♦ [Embedding Change](#) - Following the publication of Working Together 2023, there are a number of reforms to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements which will take place this year, many through the Pathfinder programme.

Schools and Safeguarding

Principles and Values

Independent Scrutiny: Annual report provides a comprehensive assessment of the strength of safeguarding arrangements