

Compass Team Newsletter

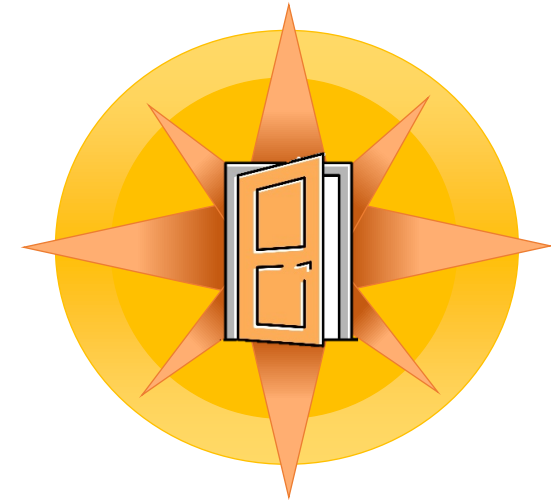
Issue 9 Quarter 2 2025

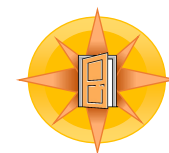
Welcome!

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

This Newsletter will focus on data obtained from Quarter 2 (July-September 2025)

Kate Owen (COMPASS Team Manager)





Themes of the Quarter

Data taken from Q2 2025 – July, August & September

We have had a slight increase in number of contacts to the last newsletter analysis in Q1 (Q1 2679 vs Q2 2711)

We have seen a decrease in the referrals to social care by half – 12% in Q1 vs 6% in Q2.

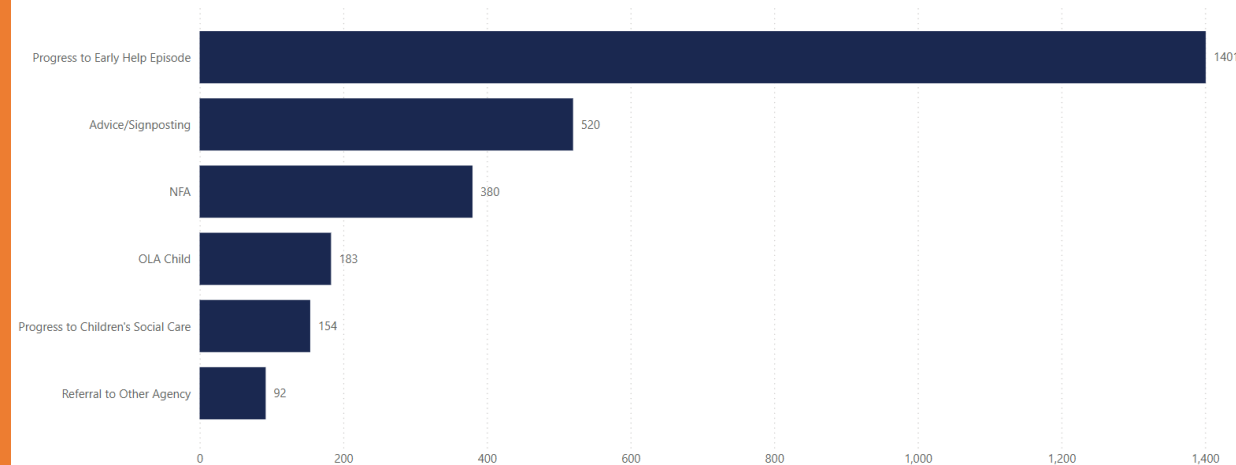
Since this time last year, Q2 2024, we have seen an increase in contacts from 2249 in 2024 to 2711 in 2025.

TOTAL CONTACTS BY COMPASS WORKERS

Month	TotalContacts	ProgressCSC	%
SEP	924	48	5%
AUG	743	48	6%
JULY	1044	58	6%
Total	2711	154	6%

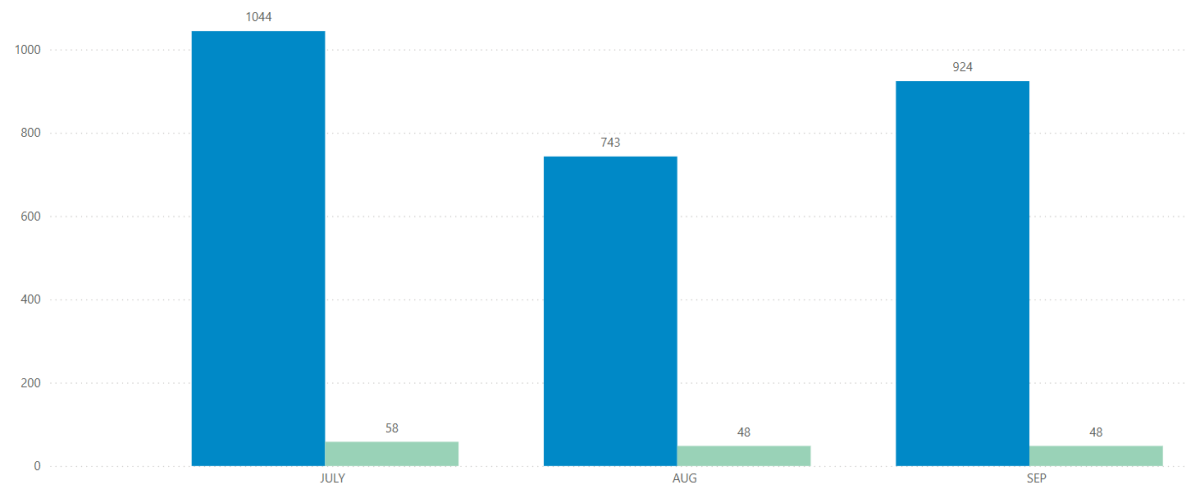
CONTACT OUTCOME

YEAR ● Current



CONTACTS BY COMPASS WORKERS

● TotalContacts ● ProgressCSC





Themes of the Quarter

Data taken from Q2 2025 – July, August & September

TOTAL CONTACTS BY COMPASS WORKERS

Month	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total Contacts
JULY	300	405	260	80	1044
AUG	188	303	199	54	743
SEP	248	414	227	59	924
Total	736	1122	686	193	2711

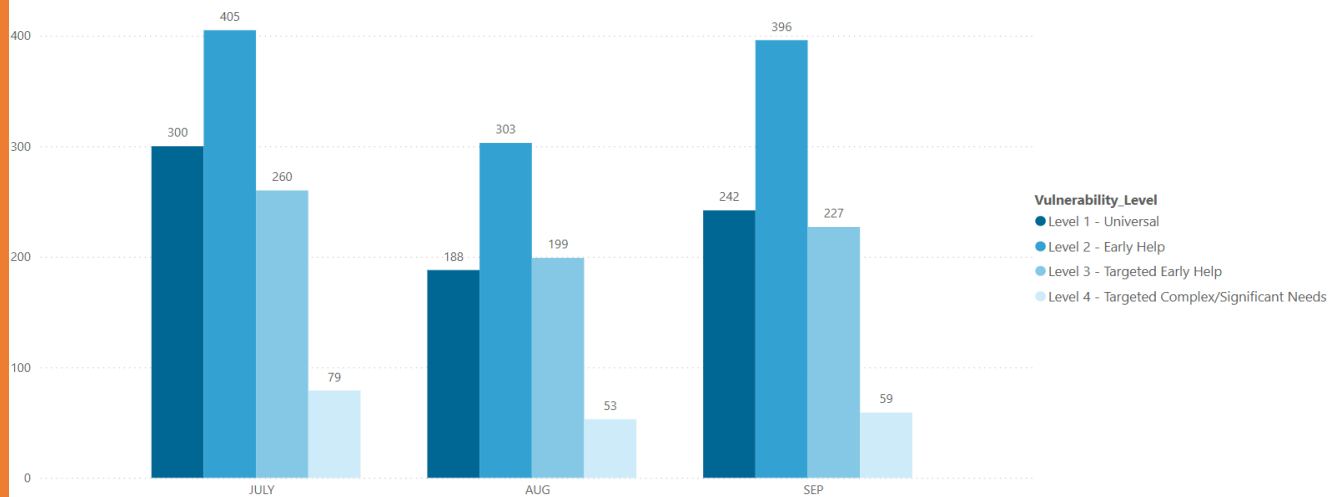
We have seen an increase of 31% for outcomes to Level 2 support compared to Q1.

There has been a decrease of 6% for outcomes to Level 3 support compared to Q1.

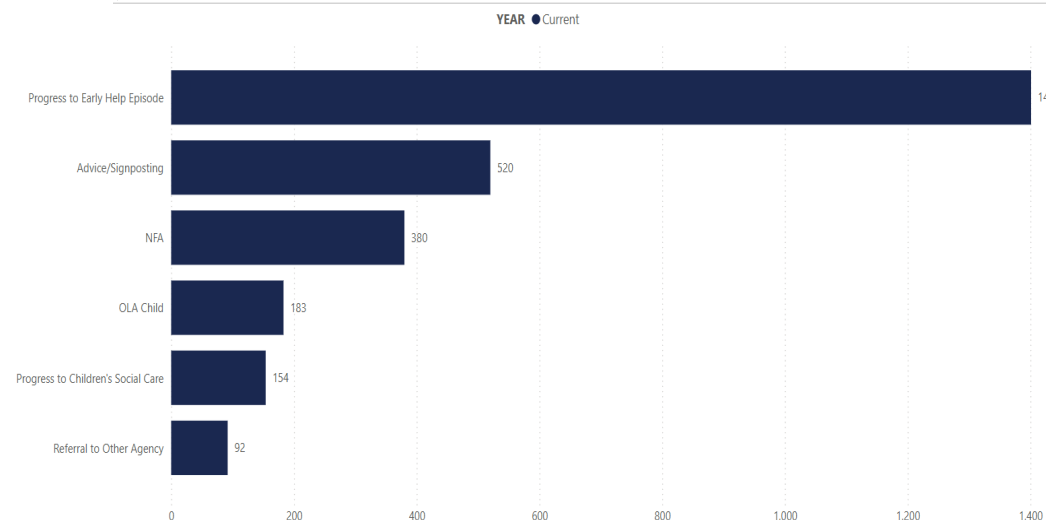
AGE BAND

Age Band	Total
A) 0 to 5	821
B) 6 to 18	1890
Total	2711

CONTACTS BY COMPASS WORKERS



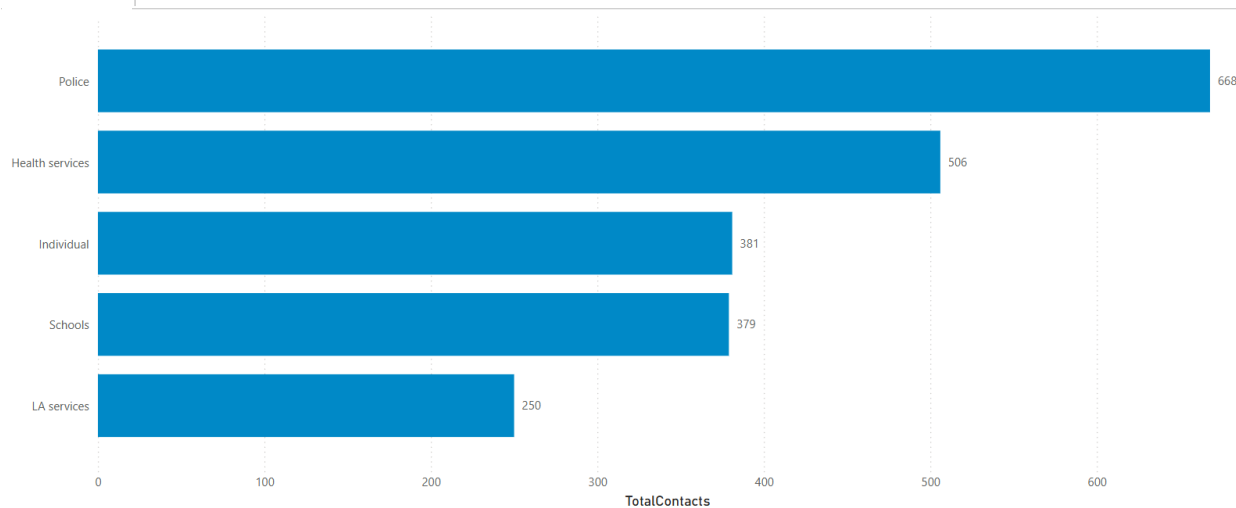
CONTACT OUTCOME



Themes of the Quarter

Data taken from Q2 2025 – July, August & September

COMPASS TOP 5 REFERRERS



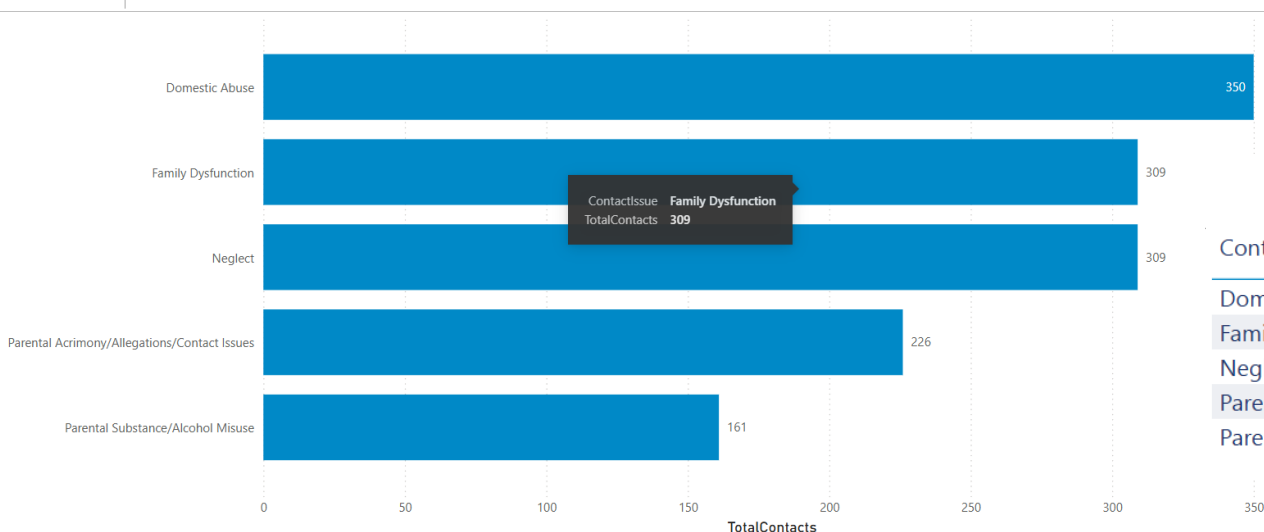
COMPASS TOP 5 REFERRERS

ContactSource	Total
Police	668
Health services	506
Individual	381
Schools	379
LA services	250

We have seen an increase of 123% of Police referrals since this time last year Q2 2024.

Q2 2024: 299
Q2 2025: 668

COMPASS TOP 5 CONTACT REASONS



COMPASS TOP 5 CONTACT REASONS

ContactIssue	Total
Domestic Abuse	350
Family Dysfunction	309
Neglect	309
Parental Acrimony/Allegations/Contact Issues	226
Parental Substance/Alcohol Misuse	161

Domestic Abuse, Family Dysfunction and Neglect, have remained the top 3 contact reasons

Themes of the Quarter

Data taken from Q2 2025 – July, August & September



Strategy Meeting outcomes

Since Q1 2025, the number of No Further Action Strategy Meeting outcomes has remained the same at 19.
There has been a slight decrease in Section 47 enquiries compared to Q1: 65 in Q1 vs 55 in Q2.

STRATS COMPLETED BY COMPASS/OUTCOME

StratOutcome	D) JULY	E) AUG	F) SEP	Total
No Further Action (NFAStrat)	4	10	5	19
Police Investigation (Police)	5	1		6
Progress to Early Help Episode (E-CINS) (LCSECINS)	1		3	4
Referral to Other Agency (ReferStrat)	6			6
Section 47 Enquiries (S47)	21	11	23	55
Total	37	22	31	90

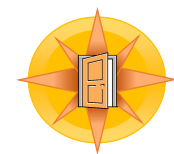


What is Families First Programme?

Aim: The aim of the Families First Partnership (FFP) programme is to transform the whole system of help, support and protection, to ensure that every family can access the right help and support when they need it, with a strong emphasis on early intervention to prevent crisis.

How: Four key areas, Strengthened Partnership **Family Help (FH)**, with local **Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs)** that wrap support around families to reduce escalating needs, where **families are engaged in group decision making** and their broader family network play a critical role in helping prevent crisis and where crisis does happen specialist **Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPT)** who are skilled to navigate complexity offer advice, support, challenge to help the care team.

- Our vision is a reformed system where Family Help Lead Practitioners (FHLPs), supported by expert multi-agency child protection teams (MACPTs) including social worker lead child protection practitioners (LCPPs), are responsible for and undertake direct child protection practice together with families where this is needed.
- When child protection concerns arise, FHLPs will maintain the relationship with the family and continue to coordinate the support and services for them.
- Where there are concerns about significant harm, the LCPP will take statutory child protection decisions with input from the wider (MACPT).
- The FHLP will remain involved in direct practice with the family throughout.
- There will be child protection expertise across the whole system of Family Help and multi-agency child protection, so effective action can be taken where concerns arise.



A reminder about the Shropshire Multi Agency Referral Form

We have noticed an increase in agencies using the old MARF form which was made redundant in May 2024.

Please use our updated Referral Form, which you can find following the link below to the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

[Reporting Concerns](#)



Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership



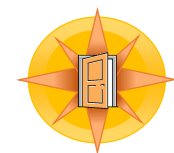
Shropshire Children's Safeguarding Portal

Our applications team are currently developing an online Portal to enable professionals and members of the public to refer into Children's Social Care and Early Help. The portal will be going live by the end of the year, and we will bring you updates when it is ready to use.

Make Referrals to Children's Services Easily Through Our Portal

Our secure online portal provides a quick and efficient way to submit referrals to Children's Services. Designed to streamline the process, the portal ensures that all necessary information is captured accurately, reducing delays and improving outcomes for children and families.

Accessible 24/7, it offers clear guidance, built-in checks, and instant confirmation of submission, giving you confidence that your referral has been received and is being processed promptly.



Private Fostering Awareness Day 2025 takes place on **Wednesday 5th November**.

This is an important opportunity for all staff working with children and families to refresh your understanding of private fostering, your responsibilities, and the support available in Shropshire.

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**Private Fostering Awareness Day
5 November 2025**

What is private fostering?

An arrangement made between a parent and a private foster carer without involvement of the local authority, to care for a child for more than 28 days. A private foster carer cannot be a close relative (grandparent, aunt, uncle or sibling) but can be someone who is known to the child. Local authorities have a duty to assess and support private fostering arrangements.

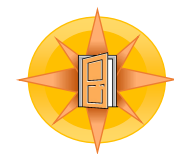
#privatefostering #awareness #kinshipcare



What is Private Fostering?

Private fostering is when a child under 16 (or under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not a close relative for more than 28 days. Close relatives include parents, step-parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. All other arrangements are considered private fostering. These can include children sent to the UK for education, children living with friends due to family breakdown, or teenagers living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend. Ukrainian Children under 18 years of age living in the UK without their parents are also defined as a Child/Young Person living in a Private fostering arrangement.

It is everyone's duty to inform the local authority of a private fostering arrangement. Private fostering is not the same as being looked after by the local authority – the arrangement is made privately by the child's parent(s) or person with parental responsibility.



Private Fostering Awareness Day 2025

How Does Private Fostering Work in Shropshire?

- Shropshire Council has a statutory duty to assess and monitor all private fostering arrangements to ensure the child's welfare is safeguarded.
- All Privately Fostered Children in Shropshire are automatically deemed a Child In Need under S17 of the Childrens Act 1989.
- The Fostering Team assess the suitability of these arrangements and provide advice and support to private foster carers.
- The Childrens Social Work teams conduct S17 social work assessments and then monitor these arrangements under a CIN plan.
- The number of private fostering arrangements in Shropshire remains low, but it is vital that all staff remain vigilant and report any potential arrangements.
- The process and responsibilities are outlined in our [Statement of Purpose](#) and [procedures](#).

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Is private fostering a type of kinship care?

The Government published a definition of kinship care in the National Kinship Strategy published in December 23. The definition includes private fostering arrangements where an individual(s) is caring for a child, not an organisation. So some types of private fostering are now considered a type of kinship care.

#privatefostering #awareness #kinshipcare



Guides and Resources

Shropshire Fostering Private Fostering Page:

<https://www.shropshirefostering.co.uk/private-fostering/>

This page includes information for professionals, families, and children, as well as downloadable guides and leaflets.

Guide for Professionals: [Private Fostering – Professionals Guide \(PDF\)](#)

Explains your role, the legal framework, and what to do if you become aware of a private fostering arrangement.

Guide for Carers: [Private Fostering – Carers Guide \(PDF\)](#)

Information for those caring for someone else's child, including notification requirements and support available.

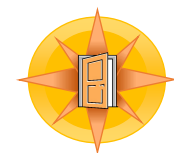
Guide for Parents: [Private Fostering – Parents Guide \(PDF\)](#)

Guide for Children: [Private Fostering – Childrens Guide \(PDF\)](#)

Information for children and young people who are living in the care of someone who is not their parents, including notification requirements and support available.

Quick Guide Flowchart: [Private Fostering Quick Guide Flowchart](#)

Step-by-step process for professionals.



Want to find out more?

Coram Private Fostering Awareness Day 2025 – Book Your Place

CoramBAAF is hosting a free, open-access Breakfast Briefing on Private Fostering Awareness Day, 5th November 2025, 09:00–09:55.

Book your place here: [CoramBAAF Private Fostering Awareness Day 2025](#)

What you'll learn:

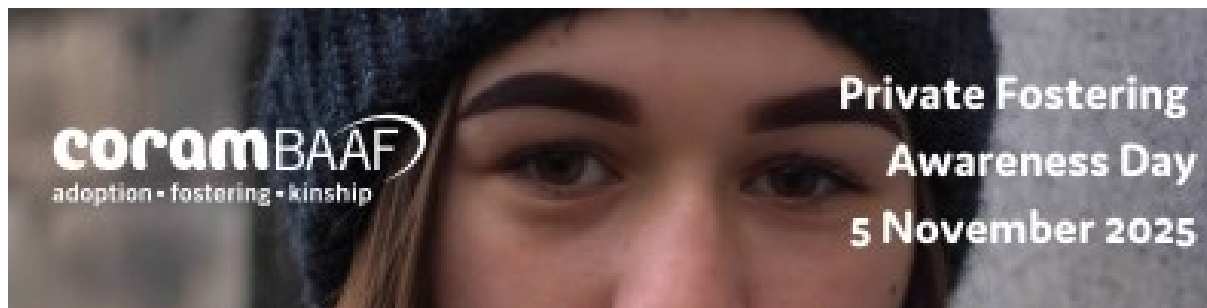
- What private fostering is and who it affects
- Responsibilities of professionals, carers, and local authorities
- Why raising awareness is vital for safeguarding children

This session is particularly relevant for social workers, health, education, and partner agencies. Attendance can contribute to your CPD.

Key Messages

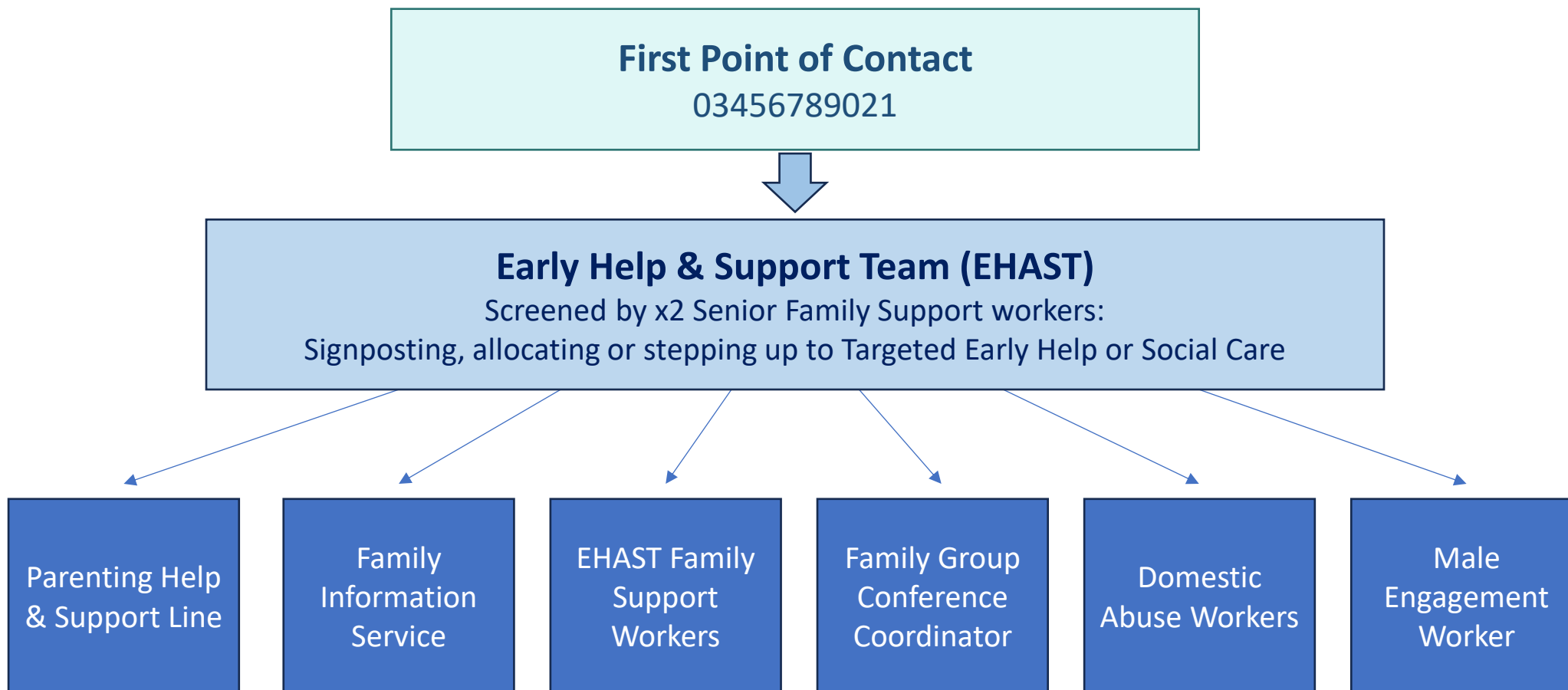
- Private fostering is everyone's business – if you know of a child in a private fostering arrangement, you must notify Shropshire Council.
- Please share the guides and website links with families and colleagues.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Kinship to Permanence Team or visit the [Shropshire Fostering website](#).

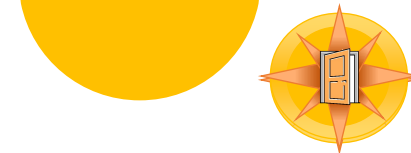


Professional and Public Referral Pathway into Early Help

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



Key Contacts & Useful Documents



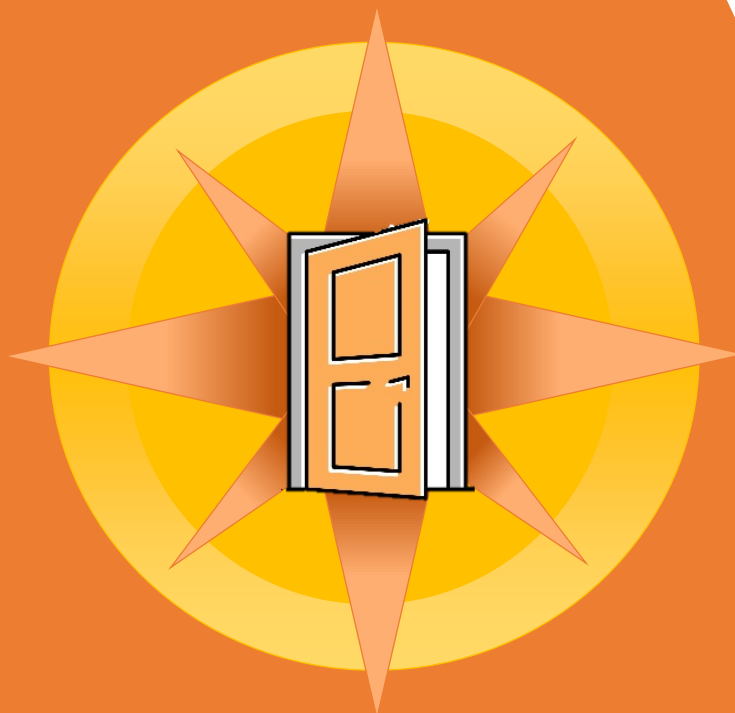
First Point of Contact (FPOC) (Compass and Initial Contact Team)	0345 678 9021
Emergency Social Work Team	0345 678 9040
West Mercia Police	101
If you think a child is in immediate danger, call the emergency services	999
Shropshire Early Help	Earlyhelp@shropshire.gov.uk
Shropshire Supporting Families	SupportingFamiliesTeam@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 2025.

Kate Owen (COMPASS Team Manager)

Designed by Rebecca Bean (Compass Coordinator)