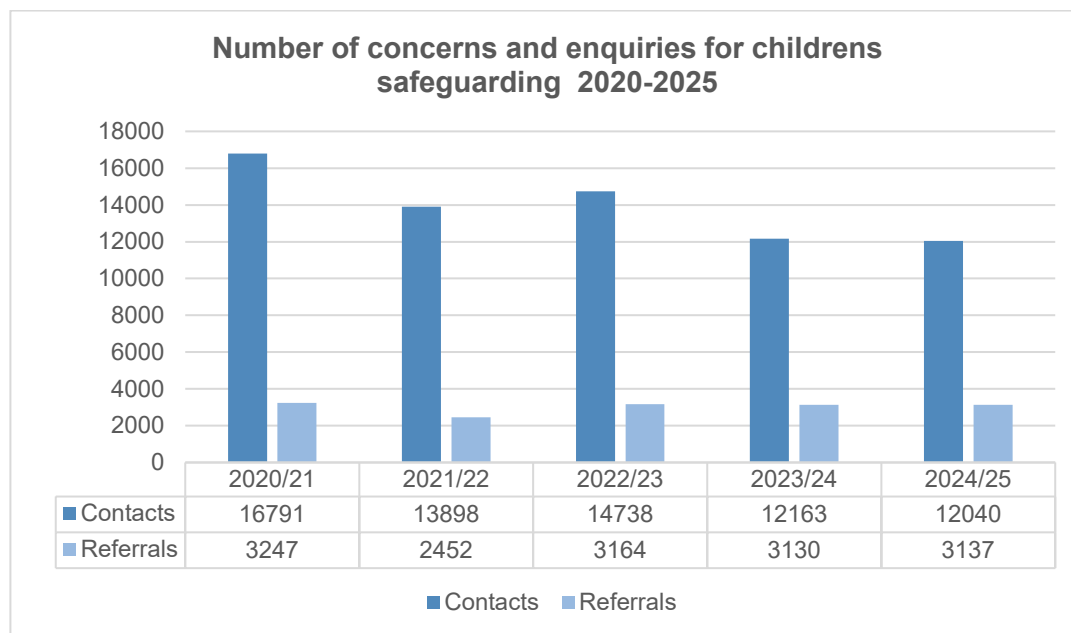
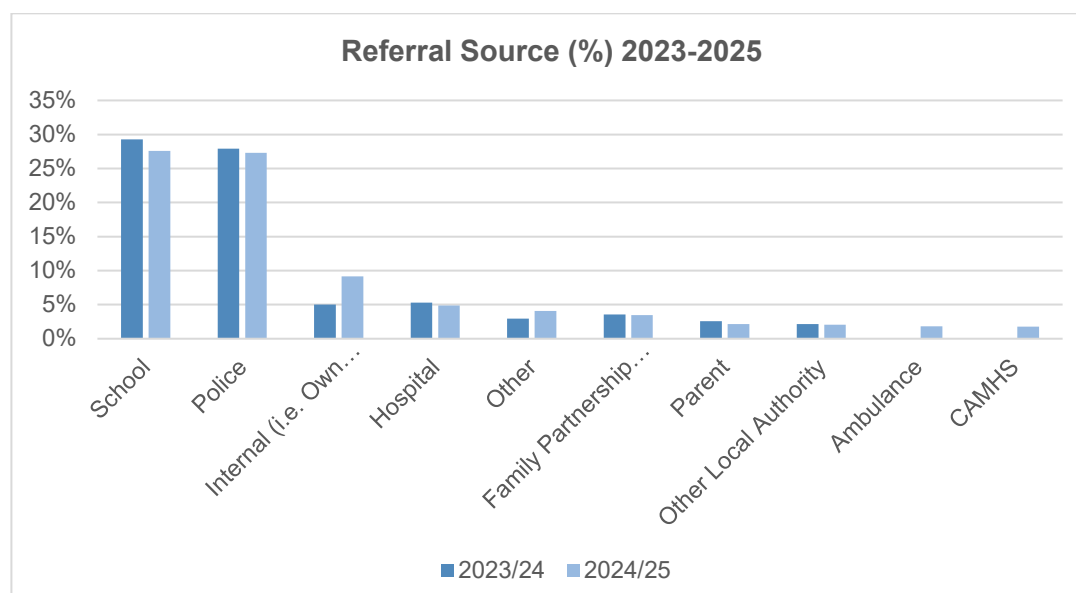


CHART 1: NUMBER OF CONCERNS AND ENQUIRIES FOR CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING APRIL 2020- MARCH 2025



What does this tell us? – The number of contacts which led to a referral to children’s social care, has **increased year on year** from **17.6%** in 2021/22 **to 26.1% at the end of 2024/25**. Changes to working practices where partners can consult the MASH before making a referral, and partners working within earlier intervention and prevention have supported partners to make the right referrals at the right time. As a result referrals dropped by **17.5%** and the conversion rate increased from **25.7% to 26.1%** in 24/25 indicating improved referral practice.

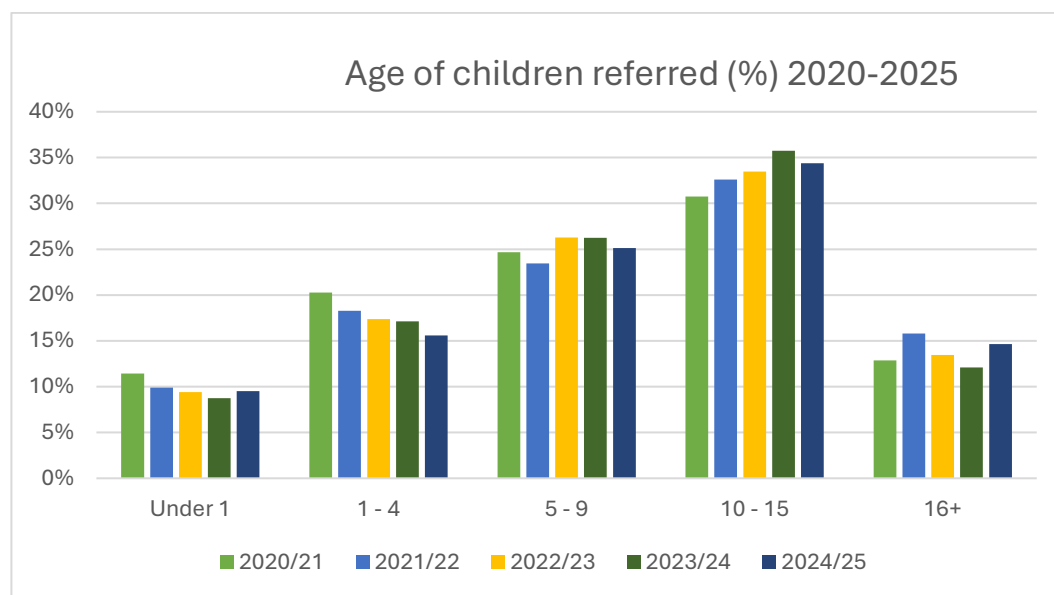
CHART 2 SOURCE OF REFERRED APRIL 2023 – MARCH 2025 (%)



Appendix A – LSCP Yearly Report 2024/25 Data Snapshot

Key facts: The police and schools consistently remain as the highest source of referral at 27.3% and 27.6% of referrals during the current reporting period. Internal referrals are nearly double this year increasing from 5.0% to 9.1%, 'Other' referral source increased from 3.0% to 4.1%. All other sources of referrals are below 5%. Family Partnership referral has remained consistent at 3.5%, while 'Parent' referrals, have decreased from 2.6% to 2.2%. This trend date will continue to be monitored throughout 2025/26 and considered alongside other evaluation data.

CHART 3 AGE OF REFERRED APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2025 (%)

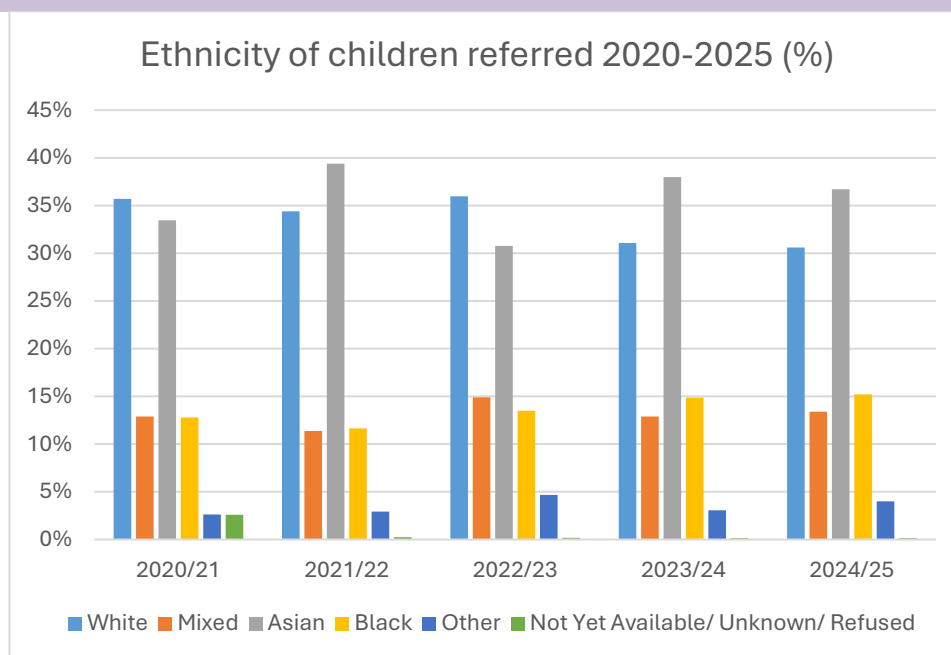


Key facts: The age of children referred to Children's Social Care by partners does not show any major change and is in broadly line with the wider changing demographics in Luton. Current year 2024/25 demonstrates:

- a slight increase in referrals for **under 1s**
- a year on year decrease in referrals for ages **1 to 4 years**
- a drop in referrals for ages **10-15 years** after a 4 year, year on year increase
- an increase for referrals for those aged **16+.**

The majority of children referred to the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) continue to be in the age group **10-15** and the LSCP may need to consider why we are not identifying children at a younger age and in particular those under 1 and aged 1-4.

CHART 4 ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN REFERRED APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2025 (%)

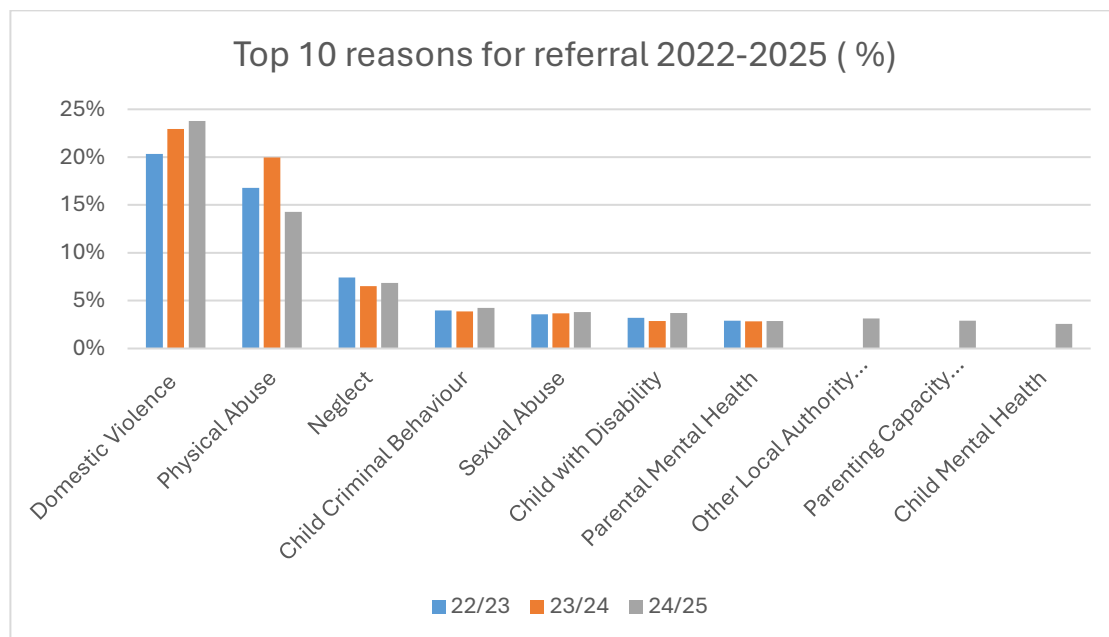


What does this tell us? - Analysing ethnicity over a five-year period represents how different referrals look compared to our population. The percentage of referrals for those of White ethnicity has continued to reduce from **36%** in 2022/23 to **30.6%** in the current reporting year. The percentage of referrals for children of dual heritage has remained at around **13%**.

The percentage of referral of those from Asian have reduced this year from **38%** in 2023/24 to **36.7%** this year. Referrals for those of Black ethnicity seen a significant percentage increase in referrals year on year from **11.7%** on 2021/22 to **15.2%** in 2024/25.

The percentage of referrals where ethnicity is not available, unknown or refused has reduced significantly from **2.6%** in 2020/21 to **less than 0.1% in 2024/25**. The LSCP needs to consider this data in its work on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and developing cultural competence.

CHART 5: TOP 10 REASONS FOR REFERRAL

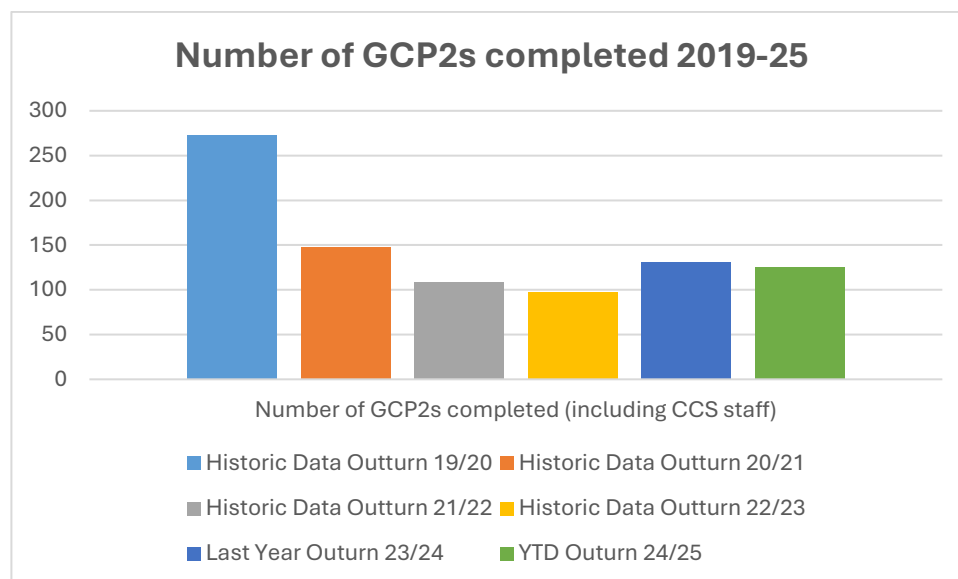


The LSCP is provided with the ten top reasons for referral over a three-year period. Domestic abuse continues to be the defining factor at **23.8%**, with a year-on-year increase of **3.5%**. The notable change is physical abuse, with 2024/25 presenting as **5.7%** lower than last year after a significant rise. Referrals for Neglect increased slightly in 2024/25 to **6.9%** and it remains a key priority for the LSCP.

There has been changes to the indicators on the top ten list in 2024/25 as shown above. Parental mental health, child criminal exploitation and sexual abuse remain in the top ten reasons for referral. The newest addition of note to the top 10 is '**Parenting Capacity**' at **2.9%**, along with '**Child Mental Health**' which historically have never been in the top 10 reasons for referral before. We are questioning as to the understanding of this reason by practitioners and partner agencies as they are significant issues for children and young people.

There continues to be marked improvements in many safeguarding indicators. However, a challenge remains for the partnership in terms of Care Leavers. The LSCP will be revising the *Effective Support Strategy guidance*, as well as the procedures for children in specific circumstances, to ensure the right referrals are made at the right time and are of the right quality. This includes the application of thresholds for **children privately fostered** as numbers remain low year on year and the year-end figure for 2024/25 was two.

CHART 6: GRADED CARE PROFILE 2



The chart above shows the number of Grade Care Profile 2 (GCP2) assessments completed by Luton Council and Cambridgeshire Community Services since 2019/20. This shows that Luton completed a significantly higher number of GCP2s pre-Covid than they have since this time. There has been concerted efforts to increase the number of practitioners trained and licenced to complete GCP2s as in 2022/23 our lowest performing year, there was a significant drop in the number of practitioners trained in GCP2.

The chart below shows the number of practitioners who have completed GCP2 training and Luton currently has 12 members of staff who are licenced to deliver the training. As discussed in the section on Neglect there are plans to increase this upscaling in 2025/26.



**FRONT DOOR ACTIVITY AND BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE DEMAND ANALYSIS – LUTON
(APRIL 24 TO MARCH 25)**

Domestic Violence Contacts: The proportion of Domestic Violence Contacts has increased

- After seeing a decrease in monthly DV contacts in the previous report (October 2024 – March 2025), we have seen monthly numbers increase again significantly, from 156 in March 2025 to 256 in April 2025. Numbers did fall slightly to 213 in May 2025 and 207 in June 2025, but remained higher than March 2025
- We saw a sharp decrease in the proportion of DV contacts in March 2025 to 16.5% and a significant increase in April 2025 to 35.5% of contacts.
- However, the proportion of contacts outside of March and April 2025 remained relatively stable, ranging from 23.6% - 26.1%
- Figure 5's pie chart below shows the number of DV contacts as a proportion of the whole number of non- DV contacts (which would be represented by a full circle). The proportion of DV contacts for the period of January 2025 to June 2025 increased to 24.8%. This is an increase from the 23.9% we saw in the last report (October 2024 to March 2025)

**Contact Issue into MASH from All Sources - Breakdown
by Domestic Violence vs. Non-Domestic Violence (Last 6 Months)**

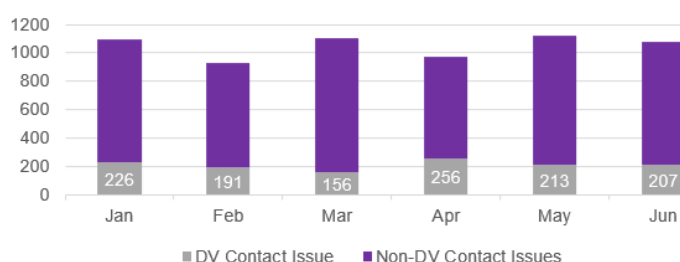


Figure 4

**Domestic Violence Contact Issue Number
Proportion of Non-Domestic Violence Number
(Last 6 Months)**

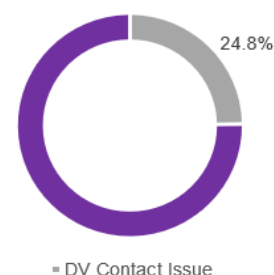


Figure 5

Front Door Activity – Domestic Violence Contacts by Police

Police Domestic Violence Contacts: 15.5% higher in the first 6 months of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024

- Among contacts from Police only, Domestic Violence is still the top Contact Issue into Luton MASH
- Of the 1249 DV contacts from all sources between January 2025 – June 2025 (see Table 1 above), 887 of these were sent by the Police. During the same period last year, the number of DV contacts from Police was 768, meaning this 6-month period is up 15.5% in total
- In Q4 2024/25, DV Police Contacts did not increase significantly compared to the same period in the previous year, with only slight differences between the numbers. However, in Q1 2025/26 we've seen a significant increase in DV Police Contacts to the same period in 2024/25, with April 2025 seeing the greatest increase (310 contacts in April 2025 compared to 155 in April 2024)

Appendix A – LSCP Yearly Report 2024/25 Data Snapshot

The data below shows the number of domestic abuse incidents recorded by Bedfordshire Police for Luton residents.

DA Crimes (crimes where the DA keyword has been applied)

Aggravating Factor	Apr 24	May 24	Jun 24	Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Total
⊕ Domestic Abuse	264	282	262	291	255	268	249	249	301	269	265	260	3,215

This shows that there is a drop in incidents during the summer with a spike in incidents recorded into October 2024 through to January 2925. These differences were explored within the LSCP Joint Quality Assurance and Leaning Group as a deep dive which showed that the increase prior to the school closing for the holiday and other variances could be linked to school term times rather than any other significant events. It is already known that during the festive period into January there are increase in reported incidents of domestic abuse nationally. There is a similar pattern in cases that are closed as a domestic incident.

DA Incidents (incidents closed as a Domestic Incident)

Month Year	Incidents
▲	
Apr 24	182
May 24	181
Jun 24	182
Jul 24	194
Aug 24	165
Sep 24	181
Oct 24	196
Nov 24	195
Dec 24	197
Jan 25	190
Feb 25	169
Mar 25	184
Total	2216



Safeguarding Bedfordshire Training Report

April 2024- March 2025

Safeguarding Bedfordshire is the multi-agency training provider for the Safeguarding Children Partnerships in Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton. Training is aimed at those working or volunteering with children and young people. Our multi-agency approach ensures a shared understanding of the priorities held by each of the Partnerships and promotes partnership working in order to safeguard children and young people with the ambition that they will lead safe, happy and healthy lives, with opportunities to learn, develop and fulfil their potential.

Headlines

- Safeguarding Bedfordshire delivered **67 learning events** in 2024/25; with an **82% increase in attendance**. This rise is attributed to a wider offer of free events, and the recent introduction (January 2025) of Designated Safeguarding Lead training.
- eLearning** registrations/ completions **reduced by 18%** in 2024/25; this is in line with our work to cleanse the system, ensuring those accessing funded eLearning are working with children/ young people in Bedfordshire, and our regular monitoring of claimed but unused licences. Although registrations are down, **overall completion rates are up to 89%**.
- Our 2024/25 **training programme was enhanced by colleagues from our Partner Agencies joining training pools** to co-deliver 'Understanding Neglect', 'Domestic Abuse' and 'Multi-Agency Information Submission Form' sessions, alongside awareness raising webinars following local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and 'Risk Assessments and Thresholds' and launching the Pan Bedfordshire Neglect Campaign.
- Satisfaction rates increased** year on year, to 99% for paid learning content, 100% for free CPD events and 91% for eLearning.
- Impact of training;** as a result of attending Safeguarding Bedfordshire events, participants identify increased knowledge, skills and confidence in recognising and responding to safeguarding concerns, increased understanding of local procedures/ thresholds and improved referrals. They appreciate the opportunity to learn in a multi-agency environment, praise the trainer/ facilitators subject knowledge and have taken action including disseminating learning within their organisation, updating policies and procedures, introducing child friendly policies, initiating audits, improving record keeping (particularly around voice/ lived experience of the child) and using escalation procedures.
- Late **cancellations/ non-attendance of learning events decreased** by 3% for paid learning events. Reasons for non-attendance include staff shortages/ capacity issues, medical appointments and attendance of safeguarding meetings/ court.
- The Pan Bedfordshire **Safeguarding Partnership website had 288,404 visits**, with 16,837 interactions with the training pages.
- Safeguarding Bedfordshire **worked with Bedfordshire Against Violence & Exploitation (BAVEX)**, supporting a series of exploitation themed events including 'Mind your Language: Exploitation and Victim Blaming' and 'Child Exploitation & Home Office Toolkit' webinars and a Pan Bedfordshire conference (all funded by BAVEX). We also **worked with YGAM** to deliver free 'Online Gaming and Gambling Harms' webinars.

Met Objectives?



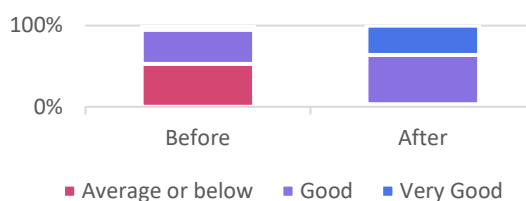
■ Completely ■ Mostly ■ Partly

Engaging?



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Av.

Knowledge shift?



Appendix A – LSCP Yearly Report 2024/25 Data Snapshot

Safeguarding Bedfordshire	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL 2024/ 25	TOTAL 2023/ 24
Training courses						
Training sessions	6	7	14	24	51	58
Bookings <i>(non-attendance) (free SCP places)</i>	103 <i>(10) (19)</i>	158 <i>(15) (35)</i>	386 <i>(34) (50)</i>	508 <i>(55) (49)</i>	1155 <i>(114) (153)</i>	1086 <i>(139)</i>
Places Filled % <i>(based on 20 per course)</i>	86%	113%	126%	106%	108%	94%
Satisfaction %	99%	100%	99%	98%	99%	98%
Cancelled	0	0	2	1	3	6
Free CPD events						
Free CPD events	6	1	2	7	16	
Total Bookings <i>(total non-attendance)</i>	259 <i>(88)</i>	86 <i>(28)</i>	163 <i>(42)</i>	317 <i>(19)</i>	825 <i>(177)</i>	
Satisfaction %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
eLearning						
Learners registered	3007	3694	2866	3104	12,691	15,510
Learners completed	2559	3294	2653	2818	11,324	13,513
Completion rate %	85%	89%	93%	91%	89%	87%
Satisfaction %		91%	91%	91%	91%	

Impact of attending learning events

Working Together to Safeguard Children

- ‘It was good to get an insight into how **different agencies come together** around a child in need and to be **signposted to statutory/ guidance** documents. This will help me as a DSL and help me help families in need will be priceless. **Outlining of good practice** is also going to be invaluable.” *DSL, Education, Bedford*
- “The most useful aspect of this session was the **trainer knowledge and ability to link discussions to practice**, and answer questions in depth. I will take all the information and **review our organisations safeguarding policy** and procedure to ensure it includes all recent safeguarding updates.” *Clinical Manager, Vol Sector, Pan Beds*
- “I really found it useful **to identify, discuss and hear best practice** around avoiding professional barriers. Being **empowered** to address this, in order that the needs of the young person can come first, was also helpful. I did not fully **understand the difference between EH, CIN and CP** - I feel that I can now speak about them with competence. This was such useful training to my role and Jenny had such a wealth of knowledge and experience which made it an excellent course.” *Drug & Alcohol Practitioner, Pan Beds*
- I have more knowledge of **how multi-agency safeguarding procedures work**, how multiagency working is crucial to the overall protection of a child. I also understand barriers of multiagency working and how to mainly through **building trusting professional relationships**, sticking to policy and keeping in mind the child's safety and wellbeing at all times.” *Community Nursery Nurse, CCS, Pan Beds*
- “Meeting with people from different agencies. Opportunity to discuss in small groups. I have lots of **extra reading** to do but will be able to work alongside my **DSL with more confidence**.” *Teacher, Education, Central Beds*
- This course has made it **clear for me** on reporting safeguarding concerns and the relevant people I can go to, not just for the safeguarding of children but for the **wellbeing of myself and my team** when having to deal with these difficult situations.” *Childminder, Bedford Borough*
- “Application of theory to 'live' scenarios, the guidance for parents will be a useful resource in exploring the misconception re. social care and considering **how we present this to parents without creating a negative perception**.” *DSL, Education, Luton*



Appendix A – LSCP Yearly Report 2024/25 Data Snapshot

- Fully **explaining levels of support** - massively helped me understand who I will communicate with to support students depending on the level of need.” **DSL, Education, Central Beds**
- “The message that we should never give the impression that a referral to Social Care is a negative - we want **positive outcomes and enable families to care for their children**. It has given me **more confidence** to act in instances where I feel there may be safeguarding issue; after the training, **I shared information regarding a safeguarding issue** with the relevant Team, which 'set the ball rolling' for support for a vulnerable young person.” **Family Partnership, Luton**

Designated Safeguarding Leads: Roles & Responsibilities

- ‘I am new to the role of deputy DSL, so this course was informative and gave me a good grounding. I like the resources because it suggested what else I need to do to inform my knowledge further.’ **Education, Bedford Borough**
- ‘Being new to the role, this fulfilled the objectives of clarifying how, why and who is responsible for each role and ultimately how we best serve to keep children safe. The trainer used hypothetical scenarios to embed new information which I found very helpful.’ **Education, Central Beds**

Designated Safeguarding Leads: Update

- ‘Signposted to useful websites which give comprehensive overview of responsibilities. Will be having a training session with safeguarding team next week to share everything we covered today.’ **Education, Central Beds**
- ‘Going to look at auditing CPOMs and having a child friendly safeguarding policy and involve our pupil parliament.’ **Education, Central Beds**
- ‘Already spoken to both deputy DSL on site and shared up to date information. Staff meeting - looking to discuss barriers to recording (and gain) Policy feedback - procedures are being re-written to have shorter bullets in place.’ **Education, Bedford Borough**

Contextual Safeguarding

- ‘I enjoyed learning about Peer, Family and Neighbourhood Mapping. I attended with colleagues, and we are now using in practice.’ **Independent Organisation, Bedfordshire**
- ‘This information has been shared with all staff so that all have a better understanding of Contextual safeguarding and our part in it. I have learned a lot about the wider aspects of contextual safeguarding as I feel my knowledge was limited. It was very useful to have colleagues from other types of setting too.’ **Education, Central Beds**

Voice of the Child

- ‘During my multi-agency meetings, I will now ensure that all questions are based around the voice of the child - I will ensure that I have captured it in various ways and not get wrapped up in processes etc to ensure they are heard. I will also keep in mind that we demonstrate what we have provided works around what the child needs.’ **Education, Central Beds**
- ‘How we can utilise the child's voice through observation, this will be used going forward and in all future meetings I will be asking what this all means for the child. As often the children I teach are not present at meetings due to their age.’ **Early Years, Central Beds**
- ‘The most useful aspect of the session was how to create and rapport and explain to the child that the things that we ask them is not about singling them out but is it what we do with all children. That child voice is not only about their view, it is about their involvement and interaction, it is about their environment and how safe it is for them to express themselves. it is about trusted relationship and a child's interaction with people around them and with other children From the first visit we should never assume that this is all what it is. Never make assumption from the 'behavioural voice' **MASH, Luton Borough Council**



Appendix A – LSCP Yearly Report 2024/25 Data Snapshot

- ‘The training was useful because it has enabled me to consider the importance of creating opportunities for the child to speak and ways in which I can enable their voice. Hearing from other agency perspectives was useful.’ DSL, Education, Central Bedfordshire ‘There was so much to unpack here. I plan to action immediately by ensuring that staff are capturing the voice of the child when recording concerns. I will also ensure that communication passports are put into place for our non-verbal children. **Headteacher, Education, Bedford**

Safeguarding Children with Disabilities

- ‘As I work for a special need's charity, this training will impact how we carry out our safeguarding duties.’ **Vol Sector, Bedfordshire**
- ‘Overhaul of our safeguarding governance arrangements and reviewing all my supervision agreements with my supervisees.’ **Vol Sector, Luton**

Safeguarding Young People into Adulthood

- “For me it was the lightbulb moment of just how different Adult and Child services are which is what impacts on transitions. It's a really simple thing which I feel is not really thought of by professionals. This had made me think how we could adapt our support to learners to help prepare them for this.” **Residential Home, Bedfordshire**

Safer Recruitment

- Good mix of activities helped consolidate learning, theoretical model and steps towards prevention. Action taken; Remind staff where LADO number is displayed, use some of the activities with staff, asked new governor to attend the course.’ **Deputy Head, Education, Central Bedfordshire**
- ‘It was useful to see how we can change our advertising to highlight safeguarding processes. I’ll use the activities with the staff.’ **EYFS Lead, Education, Central Bedfordshire**

Safeguarding Supervision

- ‘As I am new to running Safeguarding Supervision, I found the whole course really interesting and informative. It gave me so much information to be able to implement the Supervision within our organisation.’ **Business Support Co-ordinator, Independent Sector, Bedfordshire**
- ‘Brilliant training with great content. I particularly liked the section around learning styles and the supervision cycle. I will definitely encourage more reflection time in supervision.’ **Drug and Alcohol Practitioner, Bedfordshire**
- ‘I found that all aspects of the session were really useful but I think the parts that stood out most and will be most helpful when setting up supervision will be the 4 stage reflective process of experiencing/ reflecting/ conceptualising/ actively experimenting as this will really help in structuring the supervision sessions. I think that the questions on the handout for the four sections of the supervision cycle will also be hugely helpful in keeping the supervision sessions focused.’ **DSL, Education, Bedford**
- ‘The most useful aspect was considering supervisees development and learning in terms of Kolb's learning cycle and considering questions and approaches that could tap into each area. I will bring this forward into my supervision sessions - using questions that tap into each area of learning/reflection and attempting to cover each learning area for client discussions. **Clinical Psychologist/ Supervisor, CHUMS**

Risk Assessment & Thresholds Webinar

- “Having all 3 (Safeguarding Partners presenting) enable new staff to better understand the collaborative approach to safeguarding children. If this could be done 6 monthly, there would improve communication between agencies. Sharing information is key to safeguarding.” **Probation Service, Bedfordshire**



Appendix A – LSCP Yearly Report 2024/25 Data Snapshot

- “It provided a great overall perspective and the importance of multi-agency working. I've gained valuable insights. The probation risk assessment and the work of the ICAIT was particularly interesting. (I will share) ICAIT info with safeguarding team initially - Terminology to share with whole school i.e.: NOT child pornography etc. Good to have numbers to contact each of the agencies. Operation Encompass works so well is there a way this system could be used to alert schools about family members that have been arrested for an offence rather than relying on children's services to provide this information. Thank you very worthwhile.” **Education, Central Bedfordshire**
- “Really interesting to listen to how probation risk assess their work. I was not aware of the 'serious harm' risk assessment they use.” **Bedfordshire Police**
- “Probation service's presentation about completing risk assessment, 4 steps approach to risk assessments. I liked the case study as it showed how to use the theory/approach. I liked the presentation from Bedfordshire about how they do their assessment. iCAIT police presentation was very thought provoking and enlightening.” **Luton Borough Council**

Impact Reports 2024/25

- **Quarterly Training Reports** presented at Pan Beds Co-ordinating Group
- **Neglect themed training Report** presented at Pan Bedfordshire Neglect Group
- **Learning from CSPR’s Report** presented at Central Bedfordshire Case Review Group
- **Risk Assessments & Thresholds Report** presented at Central Bedfordshire Case Review Group
- **Families First Pathfinder (Luton) Report** presented at Luton Quality, Assurance & Improvement Group
- **Exploitation Training Report** and **Multi-Agency Information Submission Form Report** presented at Pan Beds Exploitation Group

Successes and looking ahead

Achievements

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launched Designated Safeguarding Lead training• Increased attendance across agencies, including Early Years in each LA area• Increased Partner Agencies attendance of Working Together training• Increased Partner engagement with training pools• Increased eLearning completions• Increased face to face training• Increased free/ funded learning events; developed and delivered with Partner Agencies• Child Sexual Abuse Training Pool confirmed• Success of Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding Partnership website• Quarterly SCP newsletter | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued strong links with Safeguarding in Education and Early Years in each local authority- attendance of DSL Forums, Early Years Networks and regular information sharing. This has supported increasing engagement.• Working with Pan Beds Exploitation Lead to coordinate Exploitation themed briefings (funded by BAVEX)• Continued development of Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding Partnerships website• Launched eLearning evaluations• Supporting Pan Bedfordshire Neglect Campaign |
|---|--|

2025/26 aims

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include local Children and Young People’s voices within training content• Launch ‘Developing an Understanding of Child Sexual Abuse’ training, accredited by the NSPCC and ‘Technology Assisted Child Sexual Abuse’ training, delivered by Marie Collins Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase bite size webinars on key themes from Audits, Rapid Reviews and/ or CSPR’s• Continued offer of free ‘Working Together’ and ‘Understanding Neglect’ training places for Partner Agencies• Increase dip sampling for impact case studies |
|--|---|



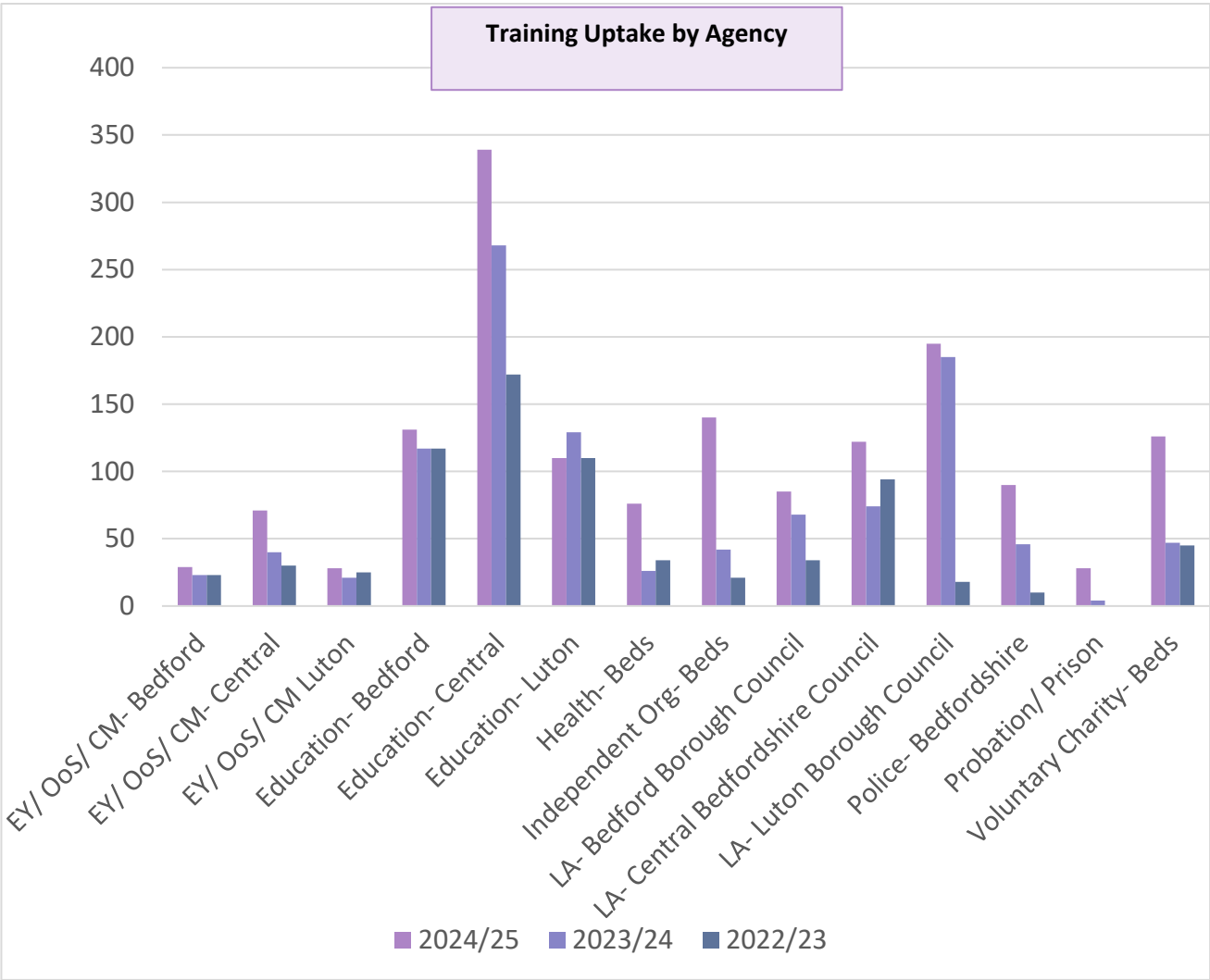
Appendix A – LSCP Yearly Report 2024/25 Data Snapshot

- Improve eLearning completion rates to 90%+
 - Manage late cancellation/ non-attendance of learning events through reporting back to Partner Agencies to address
 - Reduce ‘reliance’ on generic eLearning; encourage practitioners to attend ‘live’ localised content; a
- reduction in eLearning topics offered will preserve licences

 - Explore opportunities to engage with Adults workforce
 - Bi- Monthly SCP newsletter

ATTENDANCE INFO

Attendance by agency (3yr history) – PAN BEDS



Attendance by agency (Luton)

