Embedding Education

Strategic Partner Impact Story

Enable, Share, & Collaborate



CONTEXT

As a Wave 2 Families First for Children Pathfinder area, Wirral SCP embraced the opportunity to rethink how agencies work together to deliver better outcomes for children and families. Central to this ambition was elevating education from a supporting role to a strategic equal partner within the safeguarding system. This case study explores how the partnership has developed structures, relationships, and shared priorities that enables education to contribute to and strengthen safeguarding strategy and practice.

OBJECTIVES

- **Enable** education to influence safeguarding strategy
- **Share** expertise and insight to inform decision making
- **Collaborate** to drive system-wide improvement

INTERVENTION

Early work centred on establishing strong senior-level relationships and creating a united group of education champions to drive change. Leveraging the education DSP-equivalent's long-standing connections, the partnership prioritised early engagement to secure trust and commitment. This group mapped existing contributions and pinpointed where education could add the most value, ensuring efforts were targeted and impactful. With a clear vision in place, they worked backwards from the desired outcomes to shape an actionable plan. The group helped structure education's involvement and delivered quick wins—such as streamlined communication and shared priorities—that built momentum and demonstrated the benefits of collaboration. These steps laid the foundation for education to become a strategic, equal partner in safeguarding.

OUTCOMES

EVIDENCE OF IMPACT

Established executive-level representation and education committee. Increased engagement through a DSL Community of Practice, online portal, S175 review, information sharing pilot, and stronger links with Family Hubs. Education is more informed, visible, and influential in shaping safeguarding priorities.

CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

To enable meaningful contributions, education's understanding of SCPs must be strengthened. Early wins build momentum, so choose champions carefully and protect the desired culture. Stay strategic and focused, respect different working styles, create space for connection, and clarify escalation pathways.

OPPORTUNITIES & FUTURE PLANNING

Continue growing the Community of Practice, develop impact measures, elevate young people's voices, widen SCP influence, deepen partnership working, use data to drive priorities, and establish sub-regional representation.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

Start by ensuring full education sector representation and implement an early years engagement strategy. Challenge assumptions, adopt distributed leadership, and clarify the role of pure education. Understand your context, repurpose existing structures, connect with the voluntary sector, and keep asking questions to drive collaboration.

> ***Education being involved means people understand our world better. It's not just about grades—it's about feeling safe and supported.***



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