

Education Strategic Partnership Board Newsletter – June 2025



Click here for the Telford & Wrekin Education Strategic Partnership Board Charter: [10567_partnership_charter_a4_8pp_v5.pdf](#)
Click here for the Telford & Wrekin Partnership Board Website: <https://www.telford.gov.uk/TESPB>

Working in partnership is a key component of practice within public sector services which is defined as a working relationship where more than one professional work together to improve the lives of vulnerable citizens. For partnership working to be effective, several key elements must be observed and adopted by those working in partnership. These elements are described by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (2016) as respect for one another, empowerment, joint decision making, sharing of power and independence.



Education & Skills Director:
Simon Wellman

The vision for our Education Strategic Partnership Board

The vision for our Board is to bring together education leaders from across all sectors in Telford and Wrekin to work together to provide the best possible education and care for the young people of the Borough. The aim is to work strategically with key groups of Head Teachers and leaders that recognises their priorities and supports and challenge their work so collectively we can focus on whole system improvements across our schools. The Board believes that by collaborating, sharing and developing great practise in our organisations all our children can achieve their potential, at each stage in their education and development, to becoming successful young adults who have a real sense of belonging in Telford.



Independent Chair:
Gill Eatough

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Updates from the previous T&W Education Strategic Partnership Board held on 5th March 2025:

- The majority of actions arising from the last meeting, held 5 March 2025, were scheduled on the agenda.
- SW confirmed that the Skills Strategy has been published, and the impact will be brought back to a future meeting of the Board in 2025-26.
- The Youth Offer is currently a work in progress and the draft strategy will be shared with the Board in the Autumn Term.

Action:

The Skills Strategy (focusing on impact) and the draft Youth Offer Strategy will be brought back to a future meeting of the Partnership Board in 2025-26.

Workplan:

- LF shared the evolving Work Plan on the screen and GE outlined the main developments.
- It is important that the Board is able to focus its work on the key local issues, and the Work Plan will greatly assist with this. It was noted that a working group may be required at various intervals to focus on specific issues.
- The Work Plan starts with the premise of creating and fostering a sense of place, with a strong emphasis on working collaboratively together.

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EHE Telford & Wrekin Strategic Plan

Rebecca Carey and Scott Thomas White shared the Strategic Goals to reduce the number of Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils entering Elective Home Education.

Good outcomes are being achieved around attendance, with the LA working in partnership with schools and use up to date data. However, there are a growing number of children and young people being withdrawn from schools into EHE.

1. Early Risk Identification Using RAG Rating

Objective: Enable schools to systematically identify and support students at risk of EHE

Actions:

- **Implement a RAG rating system** in all secondary schools to assess risk of EHE based on:

- Persistent absence
- Behavioural concerns
- Mental health or anxiety issues
- Parental dissatisfaction or complaints
- Previous EHE history in the family
- EHCP / SEND support
- Safeguarding and well-being concerns



6. Strengthen Family Engagement and Support

Objective: Address parental concerns and build trust in school-based education

Actions:

- Offer pre-EHE support meetings with LA officers and school staff to explore alternatives
- Provide parent workshops on flexi-schooling, SEND support, and mental health services
- Develop a parental decision-making toolkit to help families make informed choices.

- **Require schools to submit RAG-rated pupil lists each half term to the Local Authority (LA) for monitoring and early intervention.**

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Education Safeguarding Partnership Group

Sally Sixsmith shared the Education Safeguarding Partnership Group update report.

The following data gives a breakdown of the number of education settings in Telford and Wrekin Council and the number with ineffective safeguarding arrangements as judged by Ofsted or the Independent Schools Inspectorate, and the steps taken on behalf of the Partnership and the statutory role of the DCS to help to ensure the safety of children in the borough in education settings.

Early years:

57 settings and 68 childminders in Telford & Wrekin.

All childminders and settings with published reports are judged to have effective safeguarding arrangements by Ofsted.

Schools:

84 schools, including academies and independent schools in Telford & Wrekin.

All schools have been judged to have effective safeguarding arrangements as judged by Ofsted. One school that was judged by Ofsted to have ineffective judgement arrangements for safeguarding has been brokered to a new academy trust and is awaiting first inspection.

The group received a report from the Education Safeguarding Coordinator on the Section 175/157 audit process and findings for the 23-24 academic year. The group heard that 100% of schools and settings returned the S175/157 self-audit for 23-24. Education Safeguarding conducted 38 sample safeguarding audit visits to schools and colleges in 23-24. Areas identified to strengthen safeguarding practice in schools and colleges:

- Promotion and monitoring of early help
- Safer recruitment
- Online Safety
- Quality of record keeping
- Safeguarding supervision
- Governance oversight and ability to evidence effective strategic oversight and/or challenge.

These areas will form part of the Education Safeguarding Partnership Group work plan. However, the group heard what action is already being taken to strengthen safeguarding practice in these areas.

The group received a report from the Education Safeguarding Coordinator on the safeguarding complaints received for schools and colleges from Ofsted for the 23-24 academic year.

13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
2	12	19	31	18	19	13	22	26	55	65*

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Education Safeguarding Partnership Group

- Scott Thomas-White displayed safeguarding referrals received in Family Connect. SS, STW and SW represent education on the ESP. Part of SS's role involves attending Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, the Safeguarding Executive Board and the Headteacher Forum meetings, with the purpose of ensuring that the voice of the education sector is represented and enabling a two-way dialogue.

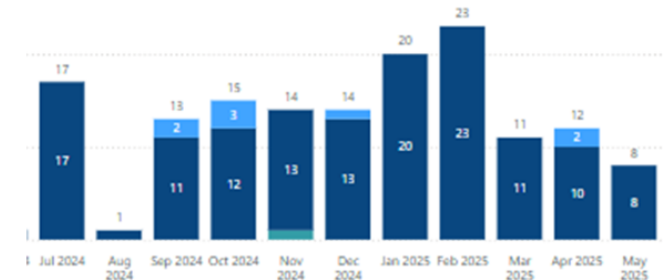
All CE referrals into Family Connect by all professionals. Top referrers Police, Education and LA.



CCE 24/25 referrals by Education-lower referral compared to 2024



CCE referrals into Family Connect by all professionals Police, Education and LA



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Telford College

- Lawrence Wood shared updates from Telford College. Telford College is becoming a multi-campus college, with 2000+ students, including 500+ apprentices on the Wellington Campus and 100+ full time learners at the Quad in Telford Town Centre.

% of 16 to 19 in Each Dept

Department	Headcount %
Health (C1HH)	14%
6th Form (C1SA)	13%
Construction (C1AC)	10%
Creative (C1VC)	8%
Business Management (C1BB)	6%
Automotive (C1AU)	6%
Digital Technology (C1BD)	6%
Engineering (C1AE)	5%
Sport (C1VS)	5%
Hair (C1VH)	4%
Landau (C1EL)	4%
Early Years (C1HY)	3%
Public Services (C1VP)	3%
Music (C1VM)	2%
King's Trust (C1FP)	2%
Hospitality & Catering (C1VO)	2%
Foundation (C1FF)	2%
Beauty (C1VB)	2%
Willowtree (C1FW)	1%
Aviation (C1AA)	1%
Education (C1HD)	1%
Access to HE (C1HA)	1%

% of 16 to 19 by Level

Level	%
Entry Level	3%
Level 1	11%
Level 2	20%
Level 3	66%



Wellington Campus



1st Floor @ The Quad



Telford 6th

16 to 19 Full-time Learner Headcount

Wellington Campus

- 2,000+ full-time learners
- 500+ apprentices
- Most Subject Sector Areas
- Entry Level to Level 5
- £2m investment in 2024/25
- £2m investment in 2025/26

1st Floor @ The Quad

- 100+ full-time learners
- Digital & Computing
- Level 1 to Level 5

Telford 6th

- Full A-Level Offer
- Capacity for 600 learners
- Opens in September 2026

New Strategic Plan (2025 to 2028)

Aim 1

Empower every learner to realise their goals and aspirations

Aim 2

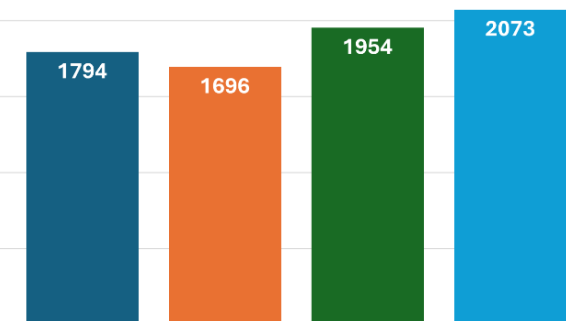
Drive economic growth through innovative and impactful partnerships

Aim 3

Enable our people to deliver excellent outcomes and have rewarding careers

Aim 4

Increase the sustainability of the organisation for future generations



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Autumn Leadership Conference

- Autumn Conference: 22 October 2025 from 9.00 to 1300
- Keynote speaker: Richard Gerver (SEND).

Richard Gerver is one of the world's leading thinkers on human leadership and organisational transformation.

A former globally renowned and life changing school principal, Richard offers a ground-breaking look into how society deals with the challenge of unleashing human potential and embracing and leading change in uncertain times. Richard's podcast, The Learning Bridge brings you conversations with a series of truly remarkable individuals from a variety of fields and backgrounds, as they explore an optimistic view of the future of the world, our organisations, businesses and for our children, which can be brighter than we imagine, if we put curiosity and learning at its heart.

Richard's unique insight into our development from infants to adults helps us to understand the nature of our personal and professional responses to risk, change, creativity, and development. His ability to connect experiences across many, often seemingly different, environments help individuals' companies and organisations expand their thinking and their own perception of their potential.



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Actions:

- A Partnership Board representative from the PVI sector will be sought.
- SW will circulate the information about Kindred Squared which was shared with PHF.
- SN will lead on the development of a Maths Conference event for the Autumn Term.
- SW and GE will identify key people from the Board to support SN in the development of the event.
- SW will bring the draft Education Strategy to a meeting in the Autumn Term.
- STW will continue to develop the EHE Strategy and will consider comments, thoughts and questions from Board members.
- Family First Reforms will be placed on the agenda for the 2 October 2025 meeting
- Board members were asked to book their conference places by sending a completed CPD booking [form](#) via email to cpdschoolimprovement@telford.gov.uk
- SD will circulate calendar invitations before the end of term.

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Upcoming Partnership Board Dates:

Thursday, October 02, 2025	2pm to 4pm
Wednesday, November 26, 2025	2pm to 4pm
Wednesday, January 28, 2026	10am to 12pm
Wednesday March 11, 2026	2pm to 4pm
Wednesday, May 06, 2026	2pm to 4pm
Wednesday, June 24, 2026	10am to 12pm