

# IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS

## USING THE GC INDEX TO IMPROVE COLLABORATION



**Successful partnerships are built on genuine collaboration – but how do you ensure that happens? An innovative new programme is helping partners to understand each other and work more effectively.**

**Walsall Safeguarding Partnership have made a real difference to the lives of their community by using The GC Index® to create a space to think, talk and build those all-important relationships...**

### THE BACKGROUND

The Walsall Safeguarding Partnership (WSP) is a collaborative effort to provide effective leadership of the efforts to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk across the Walsall area in the UK.

The partnership unites several stakeholders including the West Midlands Police, Walsall Council and the NHS to ensure that local people are protected.

Naturally, bringing together such a diverse group to do such important work means that teamwork and collaboration are of the utmost importance. This is where The GC Index® came into play.

### HOW THE GC INDEX HELPED

Across the course of a three- day programme, organised by GC Partner West Midlands Employers, around 30 people from WSP were introduced to The GC Index®.

The aim was to build closer, more effective partnerships by helping all the different stakeholders break out of their 'comfortable' silos and give them the insight and framework to understand things through their colleague's eyes.



## HOW THE GC INDEX® HELPED CONT...

“When it comes to exploitation, we all come with organisational priorities and this (process) helped us to understand we have different ways of looking at it,” explained Inspector Jamie Hobday, Walsall partnerships team manager at West Midlands Police.

“It’s by surfacing those problems and barriers that we will overcome them. I think this programme has edged the safeguarding partnership forward and helped with multi-agency working.”

Katie Storer-Young, exploitation and missing team manager at Walsall Council, agreed. “I think sometimes we are all on a different page when it comes to exploitation and this helped us move a piece of work forward and look at what we wanted to do as a partnership.”

She found understanding her GC Profile especially helpful, saying, “On a personal level, understanding my proclivities and how I can interact with others was really important.”

*“Also, when you do meet it’s normally at formal meetings with an agenda and actions and there isn’t scope to just talk. Bringing us together in a different way really made a difference. We have a better understanding of each other’s challenges.”*



## THIS PROGRAMME WON THE 2021 GC TEAM GEM, RECOGNISED FOR DELIVERING THE MOST IMPACTFUL GC INDEX TEAM FOCUSED PROGRAMME.

### THE RESULTS

As a direct result of the three-day programme, and the understanding provided by The GC Index, Walsall Safeguarding Partnership has launched an all-age exploitation pathway and family safeguarding model – a reflection of the borough’s pioneering shift towards more joined up provision for vulnerable children and adults.

The GC Index framework helped build a cohesive and credible team quickly by giving participants the insight needed to understand both their individual and collective contribution.

This not only accelerated the relationship building part but meant the team could move to action much more quickly because there was transparency about how everyone could contribute.

Liz Murphy, Chair of Walsall Safeguarding Partnership, believes others will find the programme invaluable.

**“Effective partnership working doesn’t just magically happen. It requires relationships and is about the culture of the partnership.”**

**“This programme created the space to think, to get to know each other and work out how to do things differently in order to make a difference to the most vulnerable.”**

**Liz Murphy, Chair of Walsall Safeguarding Partnership,**

