

Agenda

Children and Families

Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday, 16 June 2020, 10.00 am

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, Worcestershire County Council will be holding this meeting in accordance with the relevant legislative arrangements for remote meetings of a local authority. For more information please refer to: Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Please note that this is a public meeting, conducting remotely by videoconferencing between invited participants and live streamed for general access via a link on the Council's website to the Council's You Tube [Channel](#)

The Agenda papers and background papers can be accessed electronically on the Council's website. Members of the public and press are permitted to report on the proceedings.

This document can be provided in alternative formats such as Large Print, an audio recording or Braille; it can also be emailed as a Microsoft Word attachment. Please contact Democratic Services on telephone number 01905 844963 or by emailing democraticservices@worcestershire.gov.uk

DISCLOSING INTERESTS

**There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and 'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have
a pecuniary interest in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests** **OR**
relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorderd' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday, 16 June 2020, 10.00 am, Online only

Membership

Councillors:

Mrs F M Oborski (Chairman), Mrs J A Potter (Vice Chairman), Ms P Agar, Mr T Baker-Price, Mr B Clayton, Ms R L Dent, Mr P M McDonald, Mr S J Mackay and Ms T L Onslow

Co-opted Church Representatives (for education matters)

Bryan Allbut (Church of England)

Parent Governor Representatives (for education matters)

Vacancy

Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	Apologies and Welcome	
2	Declaration of Interest and of any Party Whip	
3	Public Participation Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager (Interim Monitoring Officer) in writing or by e-mail indicating the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case Monday 15 June 2020). Enquiries can be made through the telephone number/e-mail address below.	
4	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (previously circulated)	
5	Update on Children's Services in Response to Covid-19	1 - 10
6	Review of Delivery Model for Medical Education Provision	11 - 12
7	Update on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Journey	13 - 32
8	Work Programme 2019/20	33 - 40

Agenda produced and published by the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager (Interim Monitoring Officer) Legal and Governance, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP. To obtain further information or hard copies of this agenda, please contact Alyson Grice 01905 844962/Samantha Morris 01905 844963 email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website [here](#)

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

16 JUNE 2020

UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Summary

1. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is to receive an update on the services for Children and Families as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19).
2. The update will include:
 - children's social care and safeguarding
 - education and the Council's support to schools
 - the financial impact on Worcestershire Children First.
3. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) has requested that all the Overview and Scrutiny Panels and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) look at how services have been affected, and report back to the Board.
4. The Director of Children's Services/Chief Executive of Worcestershire Children's First (WCF) and the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families, and Education and Skills have been invited to the meeting.

Background

5. COVID-19 has meant unprecedented changes to lives across the globe. In the UK, on 23 March the Prime Minister asked the public to stay at home, to protect the NHS and to save lives. Schools were closed nationally from the end of Friday 20 March, whilst being required to provide a service for vulnerable children and the children of key workers.
6. Following Government guidance, on 16 March 2020 the Council moved away from business as usual activity and established an emergency planning approach to developing and enabling its response to the pandemic, whilst continuing to meet statutory duties.
7. Now, as the Council begins to move into recovery and out of the response phase, the Scrutiny Panels and HOSC are keen to discuss with Directorates the impact on services and staff and how they have been able to respond.
8. The County's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic will continue to evolve and the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board has asked for any emerging issues to

be highlighted to the Board, and for the Scrutiny Panels and HOSC to review current work programmes in light of this.

Children's Social Care and Safeguarding

Initial Emergency Response

9. Our initial emergency COVID-19 protocol was launched 1 April. The principles guiding that protocol were to enable the service to:

- Deliver the required interventions to safeguard those children in need of protection, promote the welfare of "Looked After" children and young people in our care and to provide the necessary support to those children in need preventing escalation of risk and need for child protection or care where possible.
- Adapt and respond to the delivery of social care & safeguarding services in the context of minimising the spread of infection within our community and deliver services with adherence to the "community lock down" put in place.
- Manage and minimise risk of infection amongst our workforce in order to act as responsible employers and to maintain a safe level of service for our children and families.

10. The protocol set out what we **stopped doing**, either because we did not have the ability to do the quality of work required or have the staff to make it a priority and we set out what we **continued to do** because the risk to a child was identified to be "High and Imminent" or "Priority".

11. We stopped, replaced or changed the way we work in the following areas:

- Visits and contacts with children and young people on plans were risk assessed against a criteria for "High & Immediate risk" "Priority" and "Vulnerable"
- Care Proceedings limited to "removal threshold"
- Child Protection review conference on hold and replaced by core group meetings as no threshold decision making appropriate
- No Child in Need (CIN) cases closed during lock down
- New CIN held at Family Front Door (FFD) to manage workflow – pooled Targeted Family Support (TFS)/FFD
- Direct work with children put on hold during community lock down
- Supervised Family time on hold during community lock down
- All partnership meetings held online
- A set of COVID -19 KPI's replaced the normal contractual KPI's

12. Monitoring Performance during COVID-19.

WORCESTERSHIRE CHILDREN FIRST Covid-19 Key Performance Indicators		12/04/2020	19/04/2020	26/04/2020	03/05/2020	10/05/2020
New and/or existing amended indicators to support review of service delivery during Covid-19						
1 Households self-isolating due to Covid-19		232	232	204	127	111
2 Number of Contacts in Period		155	236	259	255	186
3 Contacts at Family Front Door resulting S17 or S47 Assessment		14.4% (22/153)	10.2% (24/236)	20.1% (52/259)	16.5% (42/255)	16.1% (50/186)
4 Number of Domestic Abuse Contacts in Period		66	106	97	115	100
5 Domestic Abuse Contacts at Family Front Door resulting S17 or S47 Assessment		0.0% (0/66)	10.4% (11/106)	28.9% (28/97)	6.1% (7/115)	13.0% (13/100)
6 Covid19: S17 Assessments started since Apr '20, open at FFD for more than 5 working days with a KIT call within 5 working days		77.8% (14/18)	84.9% (28/33)	79.3% (42/53)	86.7% (111/128)	86.6% (110/127)
7 FFD: Section 17 Assessments started since 1st April 2020 where child has been visited (cumulative)				10.9% (15/138)	20.6% (57/180)	25.9% (59/228)
8 FFD: Section 47 Enquiries started since 1st April 2020 where child has been visited (cumulative)				54.8% (17/31)	64.0% (32/50)	76.5% (52/68)
9 Child in Need cases held at Family Front Door in line with Covid-19 Service Delivery Protocol		68	68	86	85	95
10 Family Front Door Strategy Discussions - % police involved		100.0% (14/14)	100.0% (7/7)	96.7% (29/30)	100.0% (28/28)	100.0% (20/20)
11 Family Front Door Strategy Discussions - % health involved		85.7% (12/14)	100.0% (7/7)	100.0% (30/30)	100.0% (28/28)	85.0% (17/20)
12 Family Front Door Strategy Discussions - % aged 4-17 school involved		84.6% (11/13)	100.0% (2/2)	75.0% (12/16)	95.0% (19/20)	84.6% (11/13)
13 No. of completed Initial Child Protection Conferences triggered by Section 47 Enquiry at Family Front Door		5	1	8	9	6
14 % ICPs completed within 15 days (whole service)		92.9% (12/13)	100.0% (3/3)	100.0% (9/9)	100.0% (14/14)	100.0% (8/8)
15 Percentage of Children with a CP Plan with a Core Group (or RCPC from 3rd May figures) in the last 8 weeks (in place of a Review Conference)		92.5% (483/522)	91.5% (472/516)	90.9% (471/518)	89.6% (467/521)	86.8% (459/529)
16 Proportion of Children Looked After Reviews completed within timescales		100.0% (18/18)	100.0% (11/11)	90.9% (50/55)	97.4% (37/38)	96.2% (25/26)
17 Number (%) Case Summary - Looked After Children (last 16 weeks)		40.2% (332/827)	41.3% (341/825)	42.0% (346/824)	45.4% (373/821)	47.7% (392/822)
18 Number (%) Case Summary - Children Subject of Child Protection Plan (last 16 weeks)		49.8% (260/522)	51.9% (268/516)	55.4% (287/518)	58.2% (303/521)	61.8% (327/529)
19 Number (%) Case Summary - Children in Need (last 16 weeks)		30.1% (216/718)	36.0% (259/720)	41.1% (310/755)	46.7% (364/779)	50.6% (400/790)
20 Number (%) Chronology - Children Looked After		42.9% (355/827)	44.1% (364/825)	45.6% (376/824)	48.0% (394/821)	51.0% (419/822)
21 Number (%) Chronology - Children Subject of Child Protection Plan		61.5% (321/522)	63.6% (328/516)	65.4% (339/518)	73.9% (385/521)	79.4% (420/529)
22 Number (%) Chronology - Children in Need		78.0% (560/718)	78.5% (565/720)	78.4% (592/755)	78.1% (608/779)	78.5% (620/790)
23 Covid19: Child Protection Plans with a KIT call or visit in the past 10 working days		86.2% (430/499)	92.7% (459/495)	95.8% (476/497)	92.0% (457/497)	89.3% (452/506)
24 Covid19: Child in Need with a KIT call or visit in the past 15 working days		97.5% (619/635)	97.6% (620/635)	97.5% (657/674)	96.3% (658/683)	95.4% (667/699)

13. Weekly senior management oversight of 40 COVID-19 indicators. A performance analysis for COVID-19 Phase 1 is below.

COVID -19 Emergency Protocol Phase 1: 12th April 20 – 31 st May 20 – Impact and comparisons			
Family Front Door Activity	COVID phase 1	Usual KPI	
Contact received at FFD weekly average	250	250	After a lower week ending march/first weeks in April contact rose to same averages
Contacts resulting in a Social Work Assessment (SWA)	14% up to 26%	45%	The type of contact has changed with increase in community/family and at a lower level of need. This is now showing signs of increase
Domestic Abuse contacts average per week	100	70	Increase is a comparator with same period 2019/20, very few designed "COVID" by police and rise year on year previously
Domestic Abuse contacts resulting in SWA	13%	25%	Those referred to FFD by police increased at a lower level. High and Low fewer mid-range for triage. Audit undertaken.
New strategy Discussions	181	208	Not a significant decrease indicting CP referrals and protective CP work continued as per protocol
Agency contributions to strategy discussions			
Police	99%	96%	Comparator with Qtr. 4 2019/20 – shows sustained good engagement of partners. Reduced attendance of children
Health	97%	91%	
Schools	60%	80%	

Monitoring and Reviewing Child Protection & Care Plans				
ICPC's held in FFD and Locality	76	130	Reduction in ICPC against same period last year	
ICPC held in timescales	99%	61%	Improvement was a target from qtr. 4 2019/20 KPI	
Child Protection plans reviewed via core groups (8weeks)	73%		Core Groups replaced Review CP Conferences during phase 1 due to limited direct work/partner availability	
Parental contributions to ICPC by virtual means	99%	-	Parents have been able to effectively join theses mtgs virtually	
Looked After Child Reviews completed	174	283	Some Liquid Logic implementation issues have affected timeliness of data inputting which is being addressed so more reviews have taken place.	
Keeping in Touch(KIT) through calls and visits				
KIT calls to Children in Need (15days)	88%	Frequency of calls varied to reflect level of need Staff feedback is KIT calls have been an effective method of keeping in touch with families and used well alongside other information to determine risk and need for visits. This "proactive" method of frequent contact is something we will look to develop in BAU. Early DfE national comparison show WCF with high performance against national averages		
KIT Calls to Child Protection (10 days)	87%			
KIT Calls to Children looked After permanency (30 days)	98%			
KIT Calls to Children Looked After non-permanency (20 days)	93%			
KIT Calls to Care Leavers under 18years	72%			
KIT Calls to Care Leavers over 18years	100%			
Home Visits: Identified using Risk Assessed criteria and not in statutorily timescales				
Visits to Children Looked After	345	Children looked after visited less as not in Priority Group if with professional carers. Statutory visits 86% (Feb 2020) drops to 26% April 2020		
Visits to Child Protection Children	411	Includes H&I, Priority and latterly children on a CP plan statutory visiting timescale. Statutory visits 98% (Feb 20) drops to 74% April 2020		
Visits to Children in Need	264	No statutory timescale but normal KPI 78% drops to 44% April 2020		
Visits to Children open to S47 enquiries	192	89% received a visit as part of the CP enquiry those who didn't were unborn		
Effective WFH resources				
Chronologies in place	73%	53%	Comparator figure as at beginning of COVID phase 1 and was part of our business plan for improvement	
Case Summaries in place	79%	45%		
New Accommodations into Care				
New Accommodations into Care	28	36	Only 1 COVID accommodation and reduction reflective of Strengthening Family First going live Jan 2020 and continuing through COVID phase 1	

Children Missing from Home/Care	67	Feb/Mar we had 109	A reduction seen in lock down. Average 8 a week until last week in May – Sunny Bank Holiday and community lock down lifts
Welfare Return Interviews completed	29 (43%)	91 (83%)	WRI done virtually in this period and harder to engage YP. Repeat Missing are a target group for direct visits in phase 2

Phase 2 – Road to Recovery

14. Phase 2 protocol was launched 1 June. The principles for this next phase are to:

- Resume key safeguarding service activities regarding the assessment, planning and decision making for children subject to plans and ensure we have timely and effective assessment and interventions for those identified as in need of support or protection.
- Adapt and respond to the “Recovery and Re-set” agenda of the Government in the context of minimising the spread of infection and protecting our workforce
- Respond to the views and wishes of Staff and Managers on how we can effectively deliver our services in the medium term and prepare for long term delivery learning from the COVID-19 initial periods.

15. Phase 2 development of practice

- Direct work with key children and young people to progress planning where children plan is at critical stages and need to step up or down.
- Close cases where this is possible to initiate “workflow” within the system to allow the service to prepare for re-set
- Supervised Family Time resuming June 2020

16. We are not yet returning to our original way of working but taking a planned and proportionate approach to make sure we meet children’s needs whilst continuing to ensure that staff are appropriately supported. We have been careful to manage the road to recovery in a way that allows us to “hold or step back” on the re-opening of services as necessary to follow Government and Public Health advice. Communication to staff, partners and families has been important in this to ensure they do not lose confidence in the leadership and managerial grip.

17. Therefore, there will be a review of phase 2 and a “phase 3” before our final phase 4 of Re-Set.

Phase 4 Recovery

18. We know we have a long way to go before we are at the end of the pandemic and its aftermath and will continue to be considered in our approach. We will also be thinking about the positive learning from our different way of working over the last months so that we can incorporate this into our future operating model.

- Reviewing business plans – revise timescales, revision of the activity, re-focus priorities
- Learning from delivery changes during COVID-19

Communication with Staff

19. A staff health check was completed to understand staff experiences and inform our phase 4 planning. We had pleasing results with how staff felt informed and supported.

Overall **96% of all staff** felt “informed” by Managers what was happening and expected of them, **88% of staff** have “always” been able to access support from managers & **93% felt able to access peer support**

94% of Social Workers felt in most or some cases the combination of the protocol, KIT Calls, Visits and Partnership Working has **enabled them to identify risks and needs** with the families they are working with.

94% of frontline practitioners felt able to **continue a relationship with children** they are working with through KIT Calls and Visits, **in some cases but not all and it depended on the existing relationship**

Managers and practitioners have made virtual meetings work as best as possible during this COVID-19 Service Delivery period **87% found multi-agency meetings sufficiently effective**

Overall the findings of our survey, coupled with our COVID-19 KPI's has demonstrated that throughout our Service Response to COVID-19 Staff have worked incredibly hard and flexibly to meet the needs of children, have overall felt the support of their managers and senior managers, have made our response work to maintain relationships, and have effectively worked with partners, parents and importantly children and young people themselves to identify risks

Education and the Council's Support to Schools

20. Schools and settings were closed to most children from 20 March 2020, remaining open only for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. Schools continued to work with children remotely to ensure that education continued although in a different way. Department for Education (DfE) cancelled GCSE and A level

examinations for 2020 and Ofqual set out the process for schools and colleges to award grades for young people.

21. The Prime Minister announced on 10 May that phased wider opening of schools would resume from 1 June at the earliest. The guidance stated that early years, reception, year 1 and year 6 children would be the first to be welcomed back to school. This was in recognition of the transition faced by these year groups. The guidance stated that year 10 and year 12 pupils should have face to face teaching in schools from 15 June with an ambition for more primary and special school year groups to return before the end of the academic year.

22. Unfortunately, the government guidance did not recognise the three tier nature of part of Worcestershire's school system. When the guidance was received from the DfE we made representation about this, as did Headteachers from the schools affected. We talked to local MPs who also wrote to the Secretary of State advocating on behalf of schools and pupils concerned. The DfE responded that they expected all mainstream schools to follow the guidance and start with the three year groups have specified. The Middle School Heads group in the county discussed the position for Worcestershire considering the guidance and agreed that they would follow this.

23. The Worcestershire Education Incident Planning Group for COVID-19, consisting of WCF, the Council and school leaders from all phases, have agreed a set of basic principles some of which have been in place throughout this COVID-19 response period and some relate to the basis of working towards recovery. These were approved by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- The highest priority and consideration is the safety and wellbeing of Worcestershire children, young people, families and staff
- Reducing the risk of infection and following PHE/DFE guidance is key to any risk assessment and related actions
- We want to support a collaborative approach across Worcestershire schools and settings, governors and trust boards, the Council, WCF, DfE, Trade Unions and other key stakeholders
- We want to support a sustainable and progressive approach to wider reopening
- Increasing the attendance for vulnerable children along with children of critical workers will continue to be a priority
- The re-opening and inclusion for all children in Reception, year 1 and year 6 will be risk assessed and decisions about phasing, timing and management made, based on the outcomes of risk assessments
- An inclusive and therapeutic approach to reintegration will be taken, and particularly for those children and young people who may find a return to school or setting challenging
- Schools and settings will assess building capacity and spaces and utilising protective measures decide on group sizes up to 15 pupils in the first instance
- Schools and settings will work with partners to support children and their families, for example health services, Here2Help and social care

- We will continue to reflect, assess, learn and share with our schools, settings and from other examples

24. WCF produced a detailed risk assessment framework for schools to use to ensure that they were considering all reasonable action to take to ensure that they could safely welcome more pupils. This included:

- Theme 1: Protective measures and hygiene
- Theme 2: Accommodation/site usage
- Theme 3: Safeguarding
- Theme 4: Staffing
- Theme 5: Governance
- Theme 6: Communication
- Theme 7: Pupil and staff well-being
- Theme 8: Learning
- Theme 9: Vulnerable learners
- Theme 10: Suppliers
- Theme 11: Transport
- Theme 12: Costs associated with expanded opening

25. Decisions about when and how to open were the responsibility of head teachers, governing bodies and trust boards. For maintained schools where the County Council is the employer there is a broader health and safety duty to fulfil. A team of public health, health and safety, HR and WCF education staff have reviewed the completed risk assessments for the 94 Local Authority Maintained Schools (Community and VC) with one or more of the three year groups affected in order to support the decisions for the governing bodies.

26. On 1 June 2020 more than 75% of the primary aged year groups were open with 60% of early years settings. More were planning to open in following weeks. This has been a considerable achievement by the county's early years and schools in light of the amount of work required in a short period of time.

27. Work continues to support schools to take more pupils before the end of the academic year. Space and staffing capacity continue to be limiting factors to the numbers of pupils who can be accommodated whilst complying with required protective measures and hygiene requirements.

28. The 6 Local Authority (LA) Maintained (Community, VC and VA) High/Secondary Schools were requested to submit their wider opening plans and copy of Risk Assessment in preparation for wider reopening from Monday 15 June for Year 10 and Year 12.

29. The 9 Worcestershire Special Schools (Academy and LA maintained) were requested to submit their wider opening plans to work towards a phased return for more children and Young People and a copy of their Risk Assessment.

Home to School Transport

30. Transport are continuing to work closely with colleagues in WCF and with all Worcestershire's schools to identify the current transport needs and the potential

requirements for the wider reopening of schools on 15 June. This will take into account any reduced capacity due to social distancing guidelines for vehicles.

31. We are currently managing the number of pupils requiring transport within our current resource, however, as this number grows, this will become more challenging requiring additional resource to meet social distancing guidelines. Estimates for additional costs will be met from the COVID-19 grant and are captured in financial returns to Government.

32. Transport has continued to be provided for children of key workers and with effect from 1 June: reception, years 1, 6 and 10. With effect from 1 June, we are operating 61 mainstream contracts (transporting 154 pupils) and 119 SEND/Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) (transporting 146 pupils). Liaison with operators takes place on a weekly basis to identify their capacity regarding vehicles and drivers. The same applies to our in-house fleet to ensure that we always have an up to date, accurate forecast of assets available to undertake service provision.

The Financial Impact

33. The situation remains largely unchanged from that reported to Cabinet on 4 June 2020 - the County Council has received £25.5 million in grant allocations from Government against which it expects to spend £15m by the end of June 2020.

34. The s151 Officer with his peers continues to liaise with MHCLG and the County Council Network (CCN), regarding our future need. At this stage that is very hard to predict, and Finance continue to model and work with Government over our future need, including the impact on our Council Tax and Business Rates income / bases. This will be reported to Cabinet throughout 2020/21. A revised MTFP is expected in Autumn 2020.

35. The Director of Resources and s151 Officer continue to work extremely closely to ensure a one Worcestershire approach. WCF is fully part of the process to estimate potential expenditure and lost income over due to COVID-19.

36. The approach agreed was that any direct expenditure incurred for Children's Services be charged directly to the COVID-19 budget held by the council. Expenditure that could not be charged direct, for example additional staffing costs, would be logged as a commitment against the COVID-19 budget and invoiced by WCF at a later date. All costs being incurred are in accordance with the delegated authority from Cabinet on 26 March 2020. The Cabinet report on 4 June included as an appendix the estimate of costs due to the pandemic. Full details are set out in Appendix 1.

37. Presently there has not been an increase in costs for WCF but there is a risk of additional demand for services as lockdown eases, particularly increased costs for Home to School Transport and Children's Social Care. We will keep the panel updated regularly on the financial impact and are working in partnership with the Council.

Purpose of the meeting

38. Members are invited to consider and comment on the information discussed and agree:

- any comments to highlight to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board
- whether any further information or scrutiny work is required at this time
- whether there are any comments to highlight to the relevant Cabinet Member/s

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 – [Record of Officer Decisions](#)

Contact Points

Alyson Grice/Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844962 / 844963

Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager (Interim Monitoring Officer)) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agendas and minutes from COVID-19 Response Report to Cabinet on 4 June 2020 [Agenda for Cabinet on 4 June 2020](#)

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

16 JUNE 2020

REVIEW OF DELIVERY MODEL FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION PROVISION

Summary

1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills and the Director of Education and Early Help have been invited to the meeting to update the Panel on the review of the delivery model for medical education provision ahead of the discussion at Cabinet on 25 June 2020. This is specifically looking at the impact of COVID-19 on the review, as well as the progress made before and since COVID-19.

Background

2. The Medical Education Team (MET) is a service delivered by Worcestershire Children First (WCF), providing education for children who are unable to attend school because of medical needs including mental health difficulties. In January 2020 Cabinet approved a timeline and process for conducting a review of the MET. As part of this process, it was agreed that recommendations would be presented to Cabinet in June to inform changes and improvements which could be made to the provision from September 2020.

3. The availability of stakeholders such as schools, parents and health professionals to engage and participate in the MET review has been severely limited by COVID-19. This means it has not been possible to complete the review within the timescales originally approved. This engagement is crucial to the success of any proposed changes to the MET. New timescales are being proposed to allow for the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the availability of stakeholders to participate in the review, as well as to minimise the negative impact that any “in-year” changes would have on the social, emotional and academic progress of children, young people and families being supported by the service from September. Extending the timescales will also allow the review to align with activity being undertaken as part of the SEND Written Statement of Action, as well as the review into Exclusions and Alternative Provision.

4. The MET has continued to support pupils during COVID-19. All pupils have had access to online learning, telephone subject support and safe and well checks from staff and some vulnerable children have been taught onsite. Work packs, emails activities and online materials have been provided for Maths, English, Science, Business Studies and PSHE, providing continuity of curriculum for students. A resilience course for older students and additional activities focused on emotional health and wellbeing have been an integral part of the offer.

Next steps

5. A report detailing a revised timetable for developing a new model of delivery for medical education provision will be discussed at Cabinet on 25 June 2020 and will be publicly available from 18 June 2020.

Purpose of the Meeting

6. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- Consider the update provided since the last report to Panel on 23 January;
- Determine whether it would wish to carry out any further scrutiny; and
- Agree whether it would wish to make any comments to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills.

Contact Point

Alyson Grice/Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, (01905 844962/844963)
Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager (Interim Monitoring Officer)) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and minutes of Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel 23 January 2020 – available on the Council website [here](#).

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 16 JUNE 2020

UPDATE ON SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY

Summary

1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility (CMR) for Education and Skills, Director of Education and Early Help and Assistant Director for SEND and Vulnerable Learners have been invited to the meeting to update the Panel on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement journey including the performance during the COVID-19 period.

Background

2. The Joint Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) local area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) inspection took place 5 – 9 March 2018. The findings of the Inspection were published on 16 May 2018. The inspection raised concerns about the effectiveness of the Local Area and requested that a Written Statement of Action (WSoA) be prepared by the Local Area and submitted to OFSTED/CQC. The WSoA was approved by CMR and CCG Governing Body in August 2018. Ofsted then approved the plan as fit for purpose.

3. Since June 2018 advisers from both DfE and NHS England have held joint monitoring visits to assess the progress on delivering the WSoA. In March 2020, the Local Area received notification of the Joint Ofsted and Care Quality Commission re-visit and began preparations for the inspection days to take place. On Monday 16 March notification was received from Ofsted/CQC that the SEND re-inspection would not go ahead in March but would be deferred to a later date. All local area SEND inspections and re-inspections have been postponed due to the ongoing issues surrounding COVID-19. We have been assured that the Worcestershire local area SEND re-inspection will be prioritised as soon as inspections resume.

Update

4. The SEND Improvement Update presentation is attached at Appendix 1.

Purpose of the Meeting

5. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- Consider the update provided since the last report to Panel (November 2019);
- Determine whether it would wish to carry out any further scrutiny; and

- Agree whether it would wish to make any comments to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – SEND Improvement Update – Presentation Slides

Contact Point

Alyson Grice/Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, (01905 844962/844963)
Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director for Education and Early Help) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and Minutes of Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 8 August 2018, 6 March 2019 and 13 November 2019.

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)



At the heart of everything we do

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel

SEND Improvement update

16th June 2020

WCF Change Programme

SEND Improvement Plan

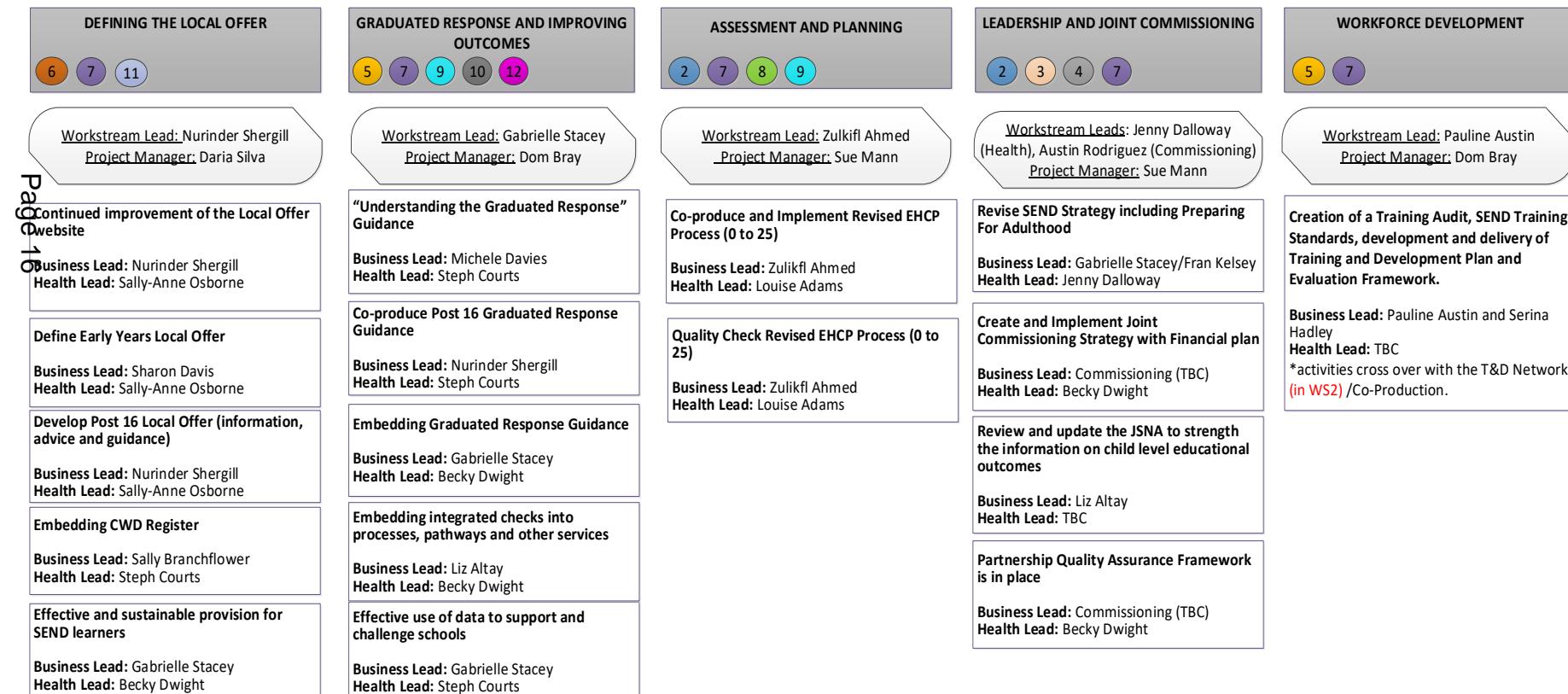
Key Concerns:	5. Variation in skills and commitment of mainstream schools to provide effective support for CYP with SEND	9. Lack of systems to track outcomes for SEND CYP special schools, post 16, NEET and youth offenders effectively
1. Safeguarding concerns regarding long term part-time timetables, being removed from roll and tracking of CYP from London boroughs housed locally	6. Lack of suitable specialist provision to meet the identified needs of CYP	10. Disproportionate numbers of SEND CYP who have been permanently excluded from school
2. CCG's lack of strategic leadership implementing SEND reforms	7. Fragile relationships with parents and carers and lack of meaningful engagement and co-production and collaboration	11. Quality of the Local Offer
3. Poor quality of action plan for the SEND Strategy	8. Poor quality of EHC Plans including limited contributions from health and social care and the processes to check and review the quality of EHC Plans	12. Academic outcomes, behaviours and attendance of SEN CYP

SEND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Improvement and Business Sponsors: Sarah Wilkins, Mari Gay

Change Manager: Rachel Kiernan

Senior Project Manager: Emily Morrall



Programme Level

P.1 SEND Improvement Safeguarding

Business Lead: Gabrielle Stacey/Ellen Footman
Programme Support: Kirsten Forbes

P.2 SEND Improvement Communication Strategy and Plan

Business Lead: Gary Morgan/Alan Smith
Programme Support: Kirsten Forbes

P.3 SEND Improvement Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Plan

Business Lead: Charlie Dickens /Sally Keane /Michele Davies
Programme Support: Kirsten Forbes

P.4 SEND Data and feedback informs the Improvement Journey

Business Lead: Gabrielle Stacey/Matthew Norton
Programme Support: Kirsten Forbes

Key Concerns		Workstream
1	The safeguarding concerns around: children and young people from London boroughs who are housed locally; the use of long-term part-time timetables; children taken off roll and missing education	Safeguarding
2	The CCG's lack of strategic leadership in implementing the SEND reforms	Workstream 4
3	The current poor quality of the action plan required to implement the new SEND strategy	Workstream 4
4	The lack of joint commissioning arrangements	Workstream 4
5	The variation in the skills and commitment of some mainstream schools to provide effective support for children who have SEN and/or disabilities	Workstream 2 Workstream 5
6	The lack of suitable specialist provision to meet the identified needs of children and young people	Workstream 1
7	The fragile relationships with parents and carers and the lack of meaningful engagement and co-production and collaboration	Workstream 2 Workstream 3 Engagement
8	The poor quality of EHC plans including the limited contributions from health and social care and the processes to check and review the quality of EHC plans	Workstream 3
9	The lack of systems to track outcomes for children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities in special schools, post-16 provision, young people who are NEET and youth offenders effectively	Workstream 2
10	The disproportionate numbers of children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities who have been permanently excluded from school	Workstream 2
11	The quality of the local offer	Workstream 1
12	Academic outcomes, behaviour and attendance of children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities	Workstream 1

DEFINING THE LOCAL OFFER

Continued improvement of the Local Offer website

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
Improvement work is continuing at a slower pace, with a focus being on ensuring up to date information is available on SEND support during the Covid-19 pandemic and the latest Government advice	Timeline of planned activity has been revised as initially agreed deadlines were out of date. "You said we did" report due in April will be delivered in June, in line with DfE relaxing the timescale. The Local Offer Review document will now start planned roll out over summer.

Define Early Years Local Offer	
<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
This work is still paused due to business lead being redeployed to Covid-19 response.	Timescales will slip and be replanned once capacity is known

Develop Post 16 Local Offer	
<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
Improvement work is continuing at slower pace, as many of the key staff are involved in Covid-19 response.	Timescales will slip and will need to be replanned as capacity of key workers becomes available. New SEND Post 16 TM is going to take the lead on this area providing needed capacity.

DEFINING THE LOCAL OFFER

Embedding CWD Register

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
Work around CWD register continuing at slower pace due to staff being redeployed to support COVID-19 response.	New timeline established in May 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testing of revised register will take place from mid May to 10 June 2020.• Stakeholder engagement analysis will be produced by 01 June 2020 to enhance comms campaign.• Comms campaign will be in place by 30 June 2020.• Launch is planned for July 2020, and exact date is yet to be confirmed.

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Effective and sustainable provision for SEND learners	
<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
Medical Education Team review — work on MET continued at a slower pace in April 2020 due to staff being redeployed to COVID-19 response.	MET report due to go to Cabinet on 25 June Due to disruption caused by the pandemic the report will not be able to outline recommendations yet but update on current status
Mainstream Autism Bases review – The start of this review has been delayed slightly. Planning work has commenced in May 2020 and is continuing.	MAB review work has first steering group on 8 June 2020 to develop an action plan to increase capacity in MAB

GRADUATED RESPONSE AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES

“Understanding the Graduated Response” Guidance

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
Continuing at slower pace. Final amends made to the Guidance on 14 May 2020 by the Working Group. Final version completed by Design and Print 21 May 2020 and to be issued for sign off.	Schools and settings remain closed, so currently reviewing the best approach and time to launch and promote the new parent/carer friendly guidance.

Co-produce “Post 16 Graduated Response” Guidance

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
Continuing at slower pace due to response to COVID-19 <small>Aug 20</small>	Timescales have been affected with the aim to further develop and review the initial draft created with the Further Education Leads Working Group on 3 June 2020.

Embedding Graduated Response Guidance

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
Work is on hold until schools and settings can fully re-open.	Responsibility Framework to be launched Autumn 2020. Guidance for Children with Medical Difficulties – further consultation with health colleagues' Summer 2020. Launch October 2020.

GRADUATED RESPONSE AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES

Embedding integrated checks into processes, pathways and other services

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
Work is continuing at a slower pace as Early Years Settings not fully open and Health being fully embedded in Covid-19 response.	Public Health looking to re-start integrated checks virtually on 1 June 2020 as a pilot scheme. Decision on pilot group still to be made and will run until September 2020 when Early years return.

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Effective use of data to support and challenge schools	
<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
Work is continuing at slower pace or on hold for most of the project due to school closures. School Level Inclusion Profiles had been issued pre Covid-19.	First meeting of School Inclusion Forum held 20 May 2020; established how the group will work when schools return and agreed Terms of Reference.

ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

Co-produce and Implement Revised EHCP Process (0 to 25)

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
<p>This project will be paused during the lockdown phase as it is critical to the success of the outcome that Parent/Carers fully co-produce the EHCP process alongside education, SEND and Health professionals. The pause is in recognition in the limited availability of Parent/Carers and some education and Health staff during lockdown. This will be reviewed as restrictions lift.</p> <p>Page 22</p>	<p>Timescales will slip due to the pause. There is potential that if some restrictions lift, work can start at a slower pace. The plan will need to be revised once a start date and approach has been decided.</p>

Quality Check Revised EHCP Process (0 to 25)

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
<p>This project will continue at a slower pace. Whilst the intention is to co-produce the Quality Assurance Framework further with Parent/Carers, a pilot will be launched which is being co-produced with SENDIASS and FIP to test the mechanics of the process before bringing Parent/Carers on board for the final drafting due to restrictions of their time during Lockdown.</p>	<p>Timescales will slip and although the pilot will be launched on 1 June 2020, the dates for full launch will not be able to be planned until restrictions start to lift.</p> <p>The Quality Assurance Framework also won't be as fully co-produced as initially hoped, but Parent/Carers will still have input into the final Framework before the full launch</p>

LEADERSHIP AND JOINT COMMISSIONING

Revise SEND Strategy including Preparing For Adulthood

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
SEND strategy update had been completed for the OFSTED re-inspection. Any changes are currently on hold pending further decision to progress.	Agenda item on Programme Board 21 May will outline planned approach to SEND Strategy Refresh

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Create and Implement Joint Commissioning Strategy with Financial plan

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
Work on the Joint Commissioning Strategy is continuing at a slower pace. This work forms part of a larger Joint Commissioning Strategy being formed for all Children's services. Clear objectives for the work related to SEND will be formed and mapped out.	Timescales will be partially informed by other work that is ongoing and has been delayed. The Joint Commissioning Strategy will be informed by the JNSA and the overarching SEND Strategy. Milestones will be captured against the set objectives where possible by the end of May

LEADERSHIP AND JOINT COMMISSIONING

Review and update the JSNA to strength the information on child level educational outcomes

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
This is being led within Public Health, whose priority is to respond to Covid-19 and to plan recovery. The JSNA has been put on hold during this time to allow the Covid-19 work to be managed	The JSNA was nearing a stage of completion prior to Covid-19 response work. The current document will need to be reviewed and a decision taken by Programme Board as to if the version as of now is signed off or will require additional work to include impact of Covid-19. Any additional work will not be able to be started until August at the earliest

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Partnership Quality Assurance Framework is in place

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
The planning of the Partnership Quality Assurance Framework has been delayed due to work on Covid-19 and is progressing at a slower pace than originally planned. The Framework for SEND will be part of a wider Framework across all of Children's Services. However, clear objectives will be set against the SEND development	Timescales have moved from the original plan due to Covid-19 work. Milestones will be captured against the set objectives by the end of May

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Creation of a Training Audit, SEND Training Standards, development and delivery of Training and Development Plan and Evaluation Framework

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
Work has been on hold due to Covid-19 response, though Internal and external Training Audit has been completed. However intention is to re-pick up in June with the Learning Needs Analysis of staff being the priority.	Workforce meetings have been set up for June 2020 and will commence planning of the Learning Needs Analysis and to revise timescales.

PROGRAMME LEVEL

SEND Improvement Safeguarding

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
<p>Missing Mondays has broadened remit to include focus on vulnerable learners who are CME and provision that can be made for them during the pandemic</p> <p>Exclusions and AP review work has been delayed as a result of capacity to continue with further information gathering</p>	<p>Extended use of EdLounge for children who fall under ‘section 19 regulations for whom educational provision still needs to be made</p> <p>APs have been working effectively with WCF and partners to consider provision during Covid-19. These is strengthening relationships.</p>

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SEND Improvement Communication Strategy and Plan

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
<p>SEND communications plan has been put on hold since Covid-19 and the effort is being redirected to support COVID-19 response, ensuring that SEND services have been communicated and support signposted during the pandemic. This has been primarily through social media, website (dedicated covid-19 pages and Local Offer) and regular schools bulletin.</p>	<p>Timescales have slipped and will need to be re-planned for the “meet the team” campaign, Parent/Carer Graduated Response Guidance, Responsibility Framework and the outcome of the Parent/carer survey.</p>

PROGRAMME LEVEL

SEND Improvement Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Plan

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
<p>Work with FIP and SENDIASS underway to try to understand how engagement and co-production work can be done differently. At the moment the only possible engagement is with FiP but not wider parents/carers group.</p> <p>Co-production internal work is being progressed.</p> <p>Co-production workshops have been cancelled at the moment.</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Plan, as well as analysis of parent/carer survey are currently paused, due to prioritisation of COVID-19 response and planning of different approaches to engage with parents/carers.</p>	<p>Wider parent/carer engagement is unable to be obtained due availability of Parent/Carers, meaning timelines across the programme will be affected where co-production is required.</p> <p>Planned Co-production event at County Hall during Co-production week w/c 06 July 2020 will no longer take place, but other online presence is to be reviewed.</p> <p>The engagement workshop will now take place in October 2020</p> <p>A prioritisation evaluation on the work that requires parent/carer involvement will need to be undertaken when restriction lift.</p>

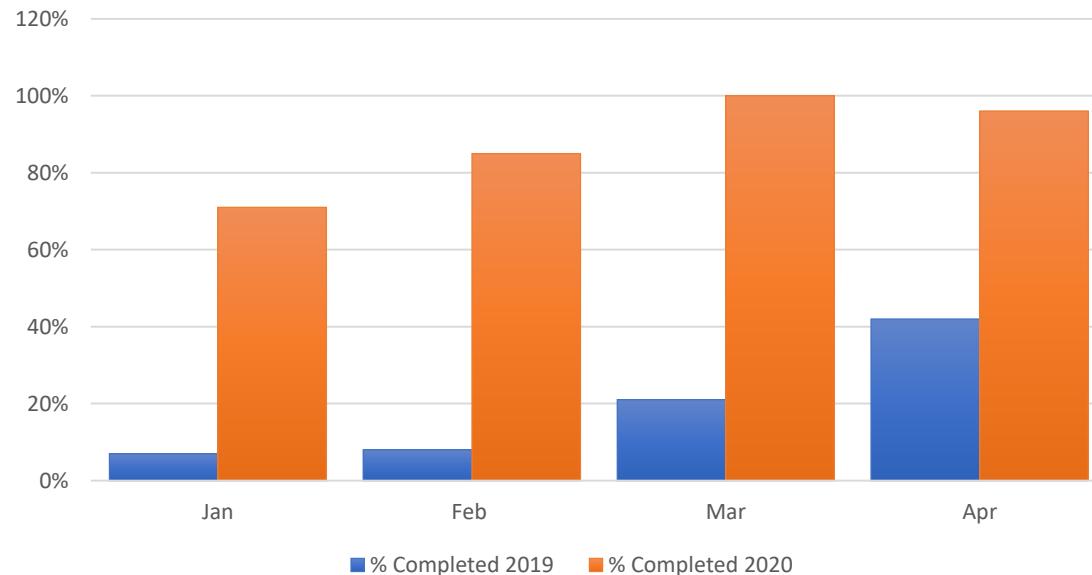
SEND Data and feedback informs the Improvement Journey

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
<p>Children and Families Act 2014: The absolute duty to provide Health and Care provision described in EHCPs changed on 1 May 2020 to “reasonable endeavours” and timeframes for EHC needs assessments have also changed to “reasonably practicable” if the delay is due Covid-19. This is also true for annual review timescales and timeframes for SEND and disability tribunals.</p> <p>Covid-19 work had an impact on the transition to the Liquid Logic reporting system and certain KPIs are not able to be updated at the present time.</p>	<p>The legislative changes have been put in place to help public bodies cope but SEND services and health are making significant efforts to continue with business as usual in regard to EHC needs assessment, but allow for expectations to be managed</p> <p>The challenge of making provision in EHCPs during the Covid-19 outbreak may impact on children and young people’s progress against the outcomes in their plans. Risk assessments have been requested for every CYP with an EHCP.</p> <p>Longer term, relaxed timeframes may increase workload once things return to normal.</p>

Performance during Covid-19: EHC needs assessments

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
% Completed 2020	71%	85%	100%	96%
% Completed without exceptions	73%	88%	100%	98%
% Completed 2019	7%	8%	21%	42%

Percentage of EHC Needs Assessments Completed in 20 weeks



Performance during Covid-19: EHCP risk assessments

- In line with the DfE requirement we wrote out to all schools and settings for all our children and young people with an EHCP (4,100) to ask for an individual risk assessment for each pupil.
- Essentially the risk assessment asked several questions and considered whether it was safer for education to be made in school or at home.
- 3446 forms have been received
 - 2267 are RAG rated Green
 - 189 no Risk
 - 189 rated as Amber which require further discussions with schools
 - 199 classed as Red.
 - we have referred 34 children to the Family Support Team to contact families and offer support.
- There are 14 settings who have not responded. We are continuing our contact to chase responses.

SEND Strategy

- SEND strategy 2017-2021
 - 5 priorities: person-centred approach, integration and operational delivery, early intervention, preparation for adulthood, workforce development
 - Update on progress on SEND local offer March 2020
 - SEND strategy for 2021 onwards

Forward Planner

- 15 June 2020 – CYP Strategic Partnership
- 16 July 2020 – Workstream Leads Meeting
- 23 July 2020 – SEND Improvement Board

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

16 JUNE 2020

WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

Summary

1. From time to time the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel will review its work programme and consider which issues should be investigated as a priority.
2. Due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the Panel meetings scheduled in March and May 2020 were cancelled to allow the Council to focus its activity on responding to the pandemic.
3. Following discussion with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, some suggestions for amendments to the work programme have been noted. These are highlighted in *italics* on the Work Programme attached as Appendix 1.
4. The Panel is asked to consider and agree the Work Programme for the remainder of 2019/20.

Background

5. Worcestershire County Council has a rolling annual Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny. The 2019/20 Work Programme has been developed by taking into account issues still to be completed from 2018/19, the views of Overview and Scrutiny Panel Members and the findings of the budget scrutiny process.
6. Suggested issues have been prioritised using scrutiny feasibility criteria in order to ensure that topics are selected subjectively and the 'added value' of a review is considered right from the beginning.
7. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is responsible for scrutiny of:
 - Children's Social Care and Families
 - Public Health relating to Families
 - Education and Skills
8. The current Work Programme was agreed by Council on 12 September 2019.

Dates of Future Meetings

- 17 July 2020 at 10am
- 8 September 2020 at 2pm
- 13 November 2020 at 10am

Purpose of the Meeting

9. The Panel is asked to consider the 2019/20 Work Programme and agree whether it would like to make any amendments. The Panel will wish to retain the flexibility to take into account any urgent issues which may arise.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 – Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2019/20

Contact Points

Alyson Grice / Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844962 / 844963 Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager (Interim Monitoring Officer), the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and minutes of Council on 12 September 2019 – available on the Council website [here](#)
- Agenda and Minutes of OSPB on 24 July 2019 - available on the Council website [here](#)

Appendix 1

2019/20 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME: Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The main focus of the Panel's work will be the follow up from the Ofsted Safeguarding Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services, which took place in June 2019 and Worcestershire Children First (WCF) which is the Wholly-Owned Council Company set up to deliver and improve children's social care on behalf of the Council from 1 October 2019.

Date of Meeting	Issue for Scrutiny	Date of Last Report	Notes/Follow-up Action
19 March 2020 Cancelled due to COVID-19	Worcestershire Children First	13 November 2019	
	Performance and In-Year Budget Monitoring (Period 9 Finance/Q3 Performance October-December 2019)		
28 May 2020 Cancelled due to COVID-19	SEND Improvement Plan	6 March 2019 13 November 2019	6 months after previous update
	New Model of Delivery for Medical Education Provision		Going to Cabinet on 4 June 2020
	Sufficiency work including private residential provision used by the council (as suggested by CD) To include placements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• types of placements in Worcestershire• emergency placements• costs• availability	11 January 2019	Suggested by the Director of Children, Families and Communities during the Performance Monitoring discussion

	Report also to include information on Worcestershire children who have been placed out-of-county in unregistered children's homes, including when, where and in what circumstances <i>Suggestion: Move to a future meeting</i>		Requested at Panel meeting 13 November 2019
16 June 2020	Update on Children's Services in Response to COVID-19		As requested by OSPB
	Review of Delivery Model for Medical Education Provision		Going to Cabinet on 25 June 2020
	Update on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)		
17 July 2020	Development of Edge of Care Services	11 January 2019	Suggested during the Budget discussion Jan 2019 To include the quality of intervention with families where there is a risk that children may be received into care (Ofsted recommendation)
	Performance and In-Year Budget Monitoring (Finance Outturn/Q4 January-March 2020)		
June - Dec 2020	Update on the implementation of the Business Case for the Assessment Pathway for Children and Young People who may have Autism	OSPB 25 May 2019 CFOSP 25 September 2019	Panel requested update on implementation of new delivery model <i>Scrutiny team to finalise date with Public Health colleagues</i>

8 September 2020	Overnight Unit-based Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities – ongoing Scrutiny	8 August 2018 4 June 2019 25 September 2019	An in-depth Scrutiny was also carried out and reported to OSPB on 26 April 2018 New model of service delivery to be implemented from April 2020. Update after 6 months requested by Panel to include parental satisfaction.
	Ofsted ILACS Inspection – Feedback following annual standard inspection	11 September 2019	Ofsted report published 29 July 2019 Date of follow up inspection tbc
	Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report	13 September 2017 14 September 2018 11 September 2019	
	Performance and In-Year Budget Monitoring (Finance/Performance Q1 April-June 2020)		
13 November 2020	Performance and In-Year Budget Monitoring (Finance/Performance Q2 July- September 2020)		
February/March 2021	Update on Starting Well	11 January 2019 10 May 2019 14 February 2020	Update on progress of Service since launch (1 April 2020) and performance against KPIs <i>Scrutiny Team to finalise date with Public Health Team and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust</i>
February/March 2021	Educational Outcomes for Children in Worcestershire 2020	9 October 2018 7 February 2018 17 July 2019	

		14 February 2020	
Possible Future Items			
TBC	Elective Home Education		Scrutiny task group to be set up late spring 2020 <i>Suggestion: move to Autumn</i>
TBC	Joint Targeted Area Inspection (focus on children's emotional health and well-being)		Date tbc
TBC	Assistant Director, SEND and Vulnerable Learners to discuss review of alternative provision		Requested at Panel meeting 13 November 2019
TBC	SEND: Timeliness of EHCPs		Requested at Panel meeting 13 November 2019
TBC	Impact of child poverty		Requested at Panel meeting 13 November 2019. Ref report from Worcester City Task Group. Also linked to Public Health.
TBC	Virtual School (including the Virtual School Governing Body)		<i>Suggested additional item</i>
Standing Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance and In-year Budget Monitoring • Quality Assurance • Safeguarding • Budget Scrutiny Process 	Jan/March/July/Sept/Nov	

Scrutiny Champions	Safeguarding – Cllr Tom Baker-Price Education – Cllr Fran Oborski Looked After Children - Cllr Jane Potter Finance/budget – Cllr Pat Agar		
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