

# Agenda

## Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Thursday, 3 November 2022, 10.00 am**  
**County Hall, Worcester**

All County Councillors are invited to attend and participate

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 Scrutiny on telephone number 01905 844965 or by emailing [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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/recorded' 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**

### **Thursday, 3 November 2022, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester**

#### **Membership**

##### **Councillors:**

Cllr Steve Mackay (Chairman), Cllr David Chambers (Vice Chairman), Cllr Dan Boatright, Cllr Kyle Daisley, Cllr Nathan Desmond, Cllr Matt Jenkins, Cllr Jo Monk, Cllr Tony Muir and Cllr David Ross

##### **Co-opted Church Representatives (for education matters)**

Mr T Reid (Church Representative - Church of England)

##### **Parent Governor Representatives (for education matters)**

Mr M Hughes (Parent Governor Representative)

#### **Agenda**

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page No</b>
1	<b>Apologies and Welcome</b>	
2	<b>Declaration of Interest and of any Party Whip</b>	
3	<b>Public Participation</b> Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager in writing or by e-mail indicating both the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case 2 November 2022). Further details are available on the Council's website. Enquiries can also be made through the telephone number/e-mail address listed in this agenda and on the website.	
4	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> (previously circulated)	
5	<b>Domestic Abuse and Children</b> (Indicative timing: 10.05 to 10.40am)	1 - 10
6	<b>Worcestershire Children First Quality Assurance</b> (Indicative timing: 10.40 – 11.15am)	To follow
7	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> (Indicative timing: 11.15 – 11.35am)	11 - 16

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 Spall/ Alyson Grice 01905 844962 email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

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

Item No	Subject	Page No
8	<b>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Accelerated Progress Plan Update</b> (Indicative timing: 11.35am – 12.05pm)	17 - 24
9	<b>Work Programme</b> (Indicative timing: 12.05 – 12.10pm)	25 - 30

## NOTES

### Webcasting

Members of the Panel are reminded that meetings of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel are Webcast on the Internet and will be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website. Members of the public are informed that if they attend this meeting their images and speech may be captured by the recording equipment used for the Webcast and may also be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

**3 NOVEMBER 2022**

### DOMESTIC ABUSE AND CHILDREN

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#### Summary

1. The Panel has requested an update on developments relating to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, and the specific support offered to children and families as part of this work.
2. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well Being, the Interim Director of Public Health, the Head of Safer Communities (Public Health), the Assistant Director for Permanency, Care Proceedings, Fostering and Adoption, Worcestershire Children First and an Advanced Public Health Practitioner with responsibility for Domestic Abuse, have been invited to the meeting.

#### Background

3. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced a number of changes as part of the Government's ambition to tackle the significant harms that are caused to people because of domestic abuse. These include introducing a broader definition of Domestic Abuse (DA), improvements to the criminal justice processes and a range of new duties (Part iv), for Tier 1 Local Authorities, in particular, requiring the Authority to provide safe accommodation and support services for victims of Domestic Abuse and their families.
4. Under Part iv of the Act, the Council also had to set up a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB), to oversee the responsibilities under the Act and which it has to consult in relation to various specified functions. These functions include developing a Needs Assessment around safe accommodation and support, publishing an associated Domestic Abuse Strategy, and commissioning the accommodation and services. Annual reports have to be provided on progress annually to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, (DLUHC). The DAPB is a subgroup of the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board, which has strategic oversight of community safety across the County.

#### Domestic Abuse Figures in Worcestershire

West Mercia Police Figures	North Worcestershire 2020/21	North Worcestershire 2021/22	South Worcestershire 2020/21	North Worcestershire 2021/22
<b>DA Crime</b>	4090	3910	3820	3972
<b>DA Incidents</b>	2543	2463	2379	2355

## **Worcestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy**

5. The Worcestershire Strategy, like those in other Local Authority areas, goes beyond just the Part iv statutory requirements and builds upon the existing countywide partnership approach to prevent and tackle domestic abuse in all its forms. The four key principles in the Strategy are Prevention, Provision, Partnership and Pursue. It has been developed with partners and places victims and their families at the centre of the approach. As required by the DLUHC, the strategy was published in advance of 5 January 2022 deadline.
6. The Strategy sets out a high-level approach under the four principles and from this, the DAPB has developed a more detailed Action Plan which focuses on the individual and collective response by agencies working with the wider Worcestershire community. Amongst a range of activity this includes Public Health working with the Police to improve the data and analysis for DAPB; developing a service directory for domestic abuse; working with businesses to ensure that they have access to information on how to support staff members who may disclose abuse; working together to improve the process and journey through the family court system for survivors of domestic abuse; reviewing/renewing the Worcestershire Domestic Homicide Review protocol and processes and developing improved oversight of the Worcestershire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

## **Domestic Abuse Grant**

7. The commissioning of new services to meet the requirements of the Strategy (and the Act), was led by Public Health and supported by a Joint Commissioning Group, made up of statutory agencies including Worcestershire Children First (WCF). The DLUHC has provided annual allocations of DA Grant to Upper tier Local Authorities (currently £1.1m pa to this Council), and total of £194,000 pa to Worcestershire District Councils, which has been used to commission a number of services including:
  - Specialist domestic abuse support for survivors and their families in safe accommodation (refuges and dispersed accommodation units); Community outreach support; Psychological/ Psychotherapy support for children and adults and Domestic Abuse Training.
  - Specific funding to District Councils to assist securing support into 29 additional units of safe dispersed accommodation, into which support can be provided. 15 of these units have been commissioned to date.
  - Public Health are providing significant financial contributions through a range of grants to support the Family Safeguarding Model in 2022/3 and 2023/24.
8. Providing safe accommodation is central to the Act and is strictly defined by legislation and in Worcestershire primarily relates to Refuge accommodation and dispersed accommodation across the six Districts. It should be noted that accommodation such as generic bed and breakfast accommodation and homeless hostels are not considered relevant safe accommodation and as such,

local authorities cannot commission support within these types of accommodation.

9. The Council, working with partners is currently developing an approach called “Sanctuary”, which allows victims/survivors and their children to remain safe, subject to risk assessment, in their own properties, by adding security measures and a package of support. It will involve training staff in “designing out crime” and commissioning a service to deliver the Sanctuary model across Worcestershire in a consistent manner. The advantage is that families avoid the disruption of moving home and the impact that has on employment, schooling and family and social networks. This will operate as a pilot funded by Public Health.
10. The Council also commissions other Domestic Abuse activity:
  - Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA), which are funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Ministry of Justice.
  - DRIVE (Perpetrator Programme), funded by the PCC and Public Health. In 2021/2 Drive dealt with:
    - 104 perpetrators
    - 109 associated victims for whom there were
    - 253 associated children

### **Domestic Abuse Advice and Support Service (DAASS) contract – focus on children**

11. West Mercia Women’s Aid (WMWA) deliver a spectrum of services as part of the contract. All of the services support victims and survivors of domestic abuse and so by association the children in those families. However, by working with WCF as part of the commissioning, specific support for children in the safe accommodation provided has been secured.

### **Working with Children in the Refuge/Safe accommodation.**

12. A dedicated WMWA worker focuses on assisting young people in age ranges 5 to 15 years. Typically, this could include basic safety planning, learning to deal with not having their own space and the difference between healthy & unhealthy relationships in group and one to one sessions. Through these sessions the worker is able to start them on a journey of understanding why they had to move to a refuge or safe accommodation away from their family home and that it wasn’t their fault and that they are not alone. Comments made about the sessions and living in refuge have included “I’ve enjoyed doing craft while we talked, it has made it easier to talk about things” and “being able to talk about my feelings has been good”.
13. A recent case example involved the worker engaging a 7-year-old who presents as very happy but struggles to talk about how they are really feeling about things. It helped them to talk about expressing feelings in a safe way and giving them some ways to explore those feelings. The child was worried about being a burden and causing trouble for people if they talked about how they are really feeling. They have discussed how everyone has the right to feel safe and that the adults in their life now, are there to support them no matter what. This work has allowed

them to start to think about how they can share feelings and worries with adults when they need to and has started to help them feel like they aren't a burden on the adults around them.

### **Counselling - Children in refuge**

14. WMWA are working in partnership with West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WMRSASAC) to provide this service. WMRSASAC's qualified children's counsellors deliver counselling for children that are currently living in WMWA refuges. There are 12 spaces for the year to provide those children who have been adversely affected by domestic abuse.

### **Trauma informed support and Play therapy**

15. The aim of a Trauma Informed Children and Young People's worker is to work with children and young people that have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse, and to help them to cope and recover from the trauma that this can cause. Trauma is defined as any incident experienced as out of control, frightening, and characterised by a lack of a supportive person. Witnessing and or experiencing domestic abuse fits this definition. WMWA have been trained to run Recovery Toolkit (RTK) groups for children and younger adults. RTK is an evidence-based intervention and integrated in its approach using a combination of trauma-informed resilience focused work, specific trauma focused cognitive behavioural therapy and person-centred therapeutic principles.
16. These sessions draw on the study of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and utilise established psychological therapies and practise. At the end of the session, the children and young people's worker gives out a "coping box" of resources (tailored to the child's individual needs and containing books, craft/art materials etc) that the children can use to manage difficult feelings moving forward.
17. Between April - June 2022, WMWA received a total of 26 referrals for trauma informed support and play therapy services. The WMWA staff member has been providing the one-to-one sessions and working alongside the parent to provide advice and guidance on helping their children.
18. WMWA delivered 2 Nurture programmes (previously Parenting Through Domestic Abuse programme) for mothers, and these were attended by 18 participants.
19. Overall, in 2021/2022 WMWA dealt with the following:

	<b>Group Work</b>	<b>Helpline Support</b>	<b>One to One Support</b>	<b>Refuge</b>	<b>Male Victim Service</b>
Referrals	630	1139	187	224	70
Entered Service/Support	432	1139	112	44	42



## **Domestic Abuse Training**

20. Training has successfully been commissioned from Sarah Wigley Associated for three years. This training is available in 3 separate modules – Recognising Abuse, Working with Victims and Working with Perpetrators. This training is made available to WCF staff, Adult Social Care and other partners and is part of the approach to assisting staff (and Members if required), how to understand the signs of abuse and how to signpost, support and assist.
21. WCF have worked with the Council and partner agencies to review the Domestic Abuse Training and the learning objectives have been refreshed to meet the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This updated training offer was launched in April 2022. WCF will evaluate the training impact on workers awareness and confidence working with domestic abuse.
22. Between April and December 2022, a total of 46 WCF staff have booked onto the courses:
  - 19 places on Module 1
  - 13 places on Module 2
  - 14 places on Module 3

## **The Voice of the Victim – the Lived Experience Advisory Group**

23. The Domestic Abuse Act requires Authorities to protect victims/survivors and their children, with the expectation that Authorities listen to the views and experiences of victims and their family members. Whilst statutory and commissioned services do talk to their service users and gather very helpful information to assist service delivery, the Act requires an explicit and proactive consideration of the needs of all people with protected characteristics (under Equalities legislation) who may require domestic abuse services and support. This is a complex area and so the Council is partnering with Herefordshire Council to jointly commission a Lived Experience Advisory Project, to assist in ensuring that the Council and its partners fully understand wider community needs and provide services appropriate to all people's needs.

## **Worcestershire Children First (WCF) – Domestic Abuse**

24. WCF Family Front Door receives a significant amount of information from West Mercia Police on incidents and experience a significant amount of police information sharing, on incidents that they classify as domestic abuse that do not identify a level 4 need requiring a social work assessment or child protection enquiry.
25. The Police also share information with the WCF Early Help Family Support service for families they feel would benefit for an early help response. This has proved to be challenging both in terms of volume and capacity to manage this lower-level information sharing. The partnership has been successfully delivering Operation Encompass to schools in Worcestershire for some years and now are in a position to be piloting Encompass in Early Years settings.

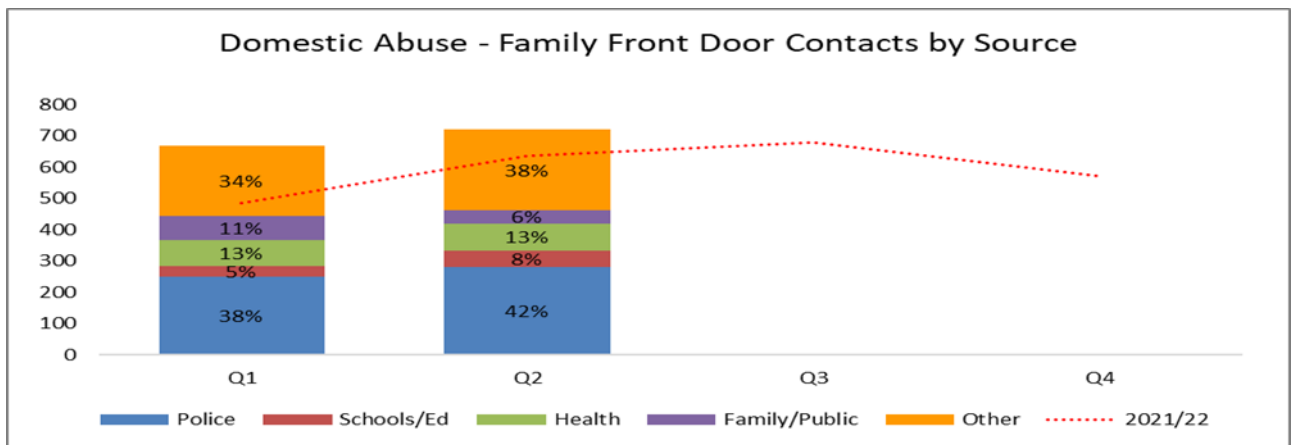
26. In recognition of partnership working and information sharing, Worcestershire Safeguarding Children’s partnership have identified joint funding to provide additional staffing capacity to WCF both within the Family Front Door and education to support this management of information sharing across the partnership for children and young people.

**Domestic abuse analysis**

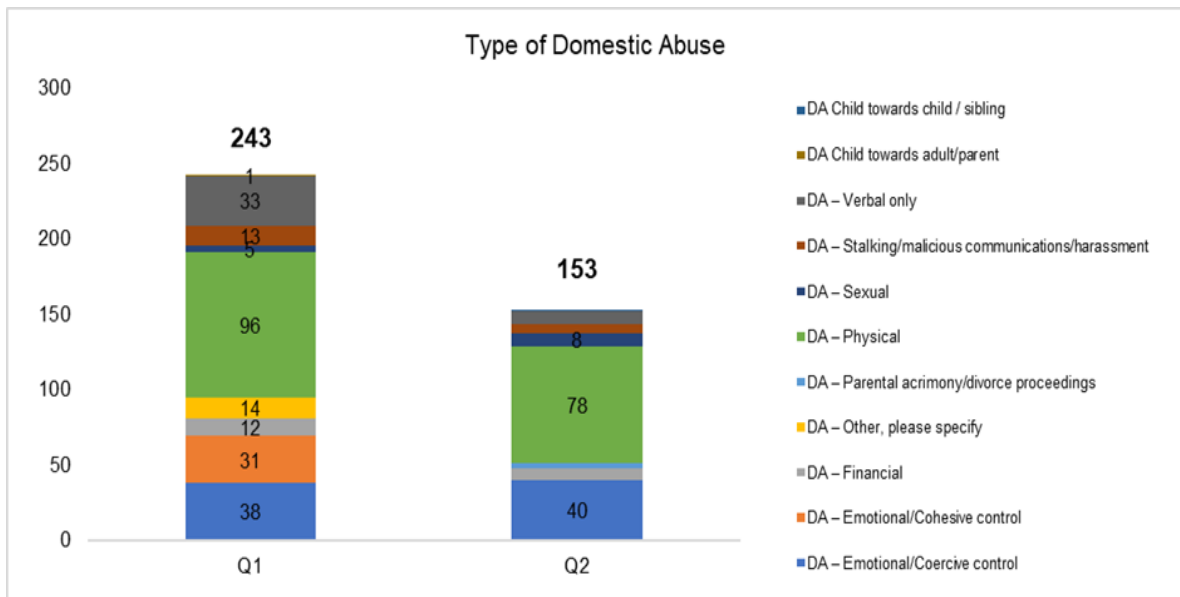
27. WCF have developed data analysis in relation to Domestic Abuse and are able to monitor domestic abuse notifications from police, partner agencies and family / members of the public. They also break down further the type of domestic abuse e.g., physical, verbal, sexual, coercive and control etc.

28. The graph below illustrates referral sources quarter on quarter. This data includes referrals on new cases but also children and young people open to children’s social care on a plan or being assessed. It can be seen that 38% in Q1, and 42% in Q2 are police domestic abuse contacts.

An illustration of Quarter 1 and Quarter 2:



29. In their assessments WCF have a strong focus on the ‘impact on the child’ which together with the specific identification of domestic abuse risk ensures that the safety plan reflects the types of domestic abuse, such as child-to-adult abuse or harassment and stalking. (See below)



## Quality Assurance

30. WCF conduct thematic audits in the Family Front Door on contact and referrals and responses to each of these. Two separate focused audits to ensure and evaluate the timeliness and quality of decision-making in response to domestic abuse notifications received in the year were completed in January 2022 and September 2022. Each looked at a sample of 20 cases of new and repeat domestic abuse notifications on open social care cases. They considered how Team Managers responded to new information on cases, and whether the responses were in line with current practice standards and how timely the police notification was.
31. In January 2022, 60% (12) cases complied with the agreed practice standard in respect of managerial oversight within 24 hours of the notification. In September 2022 compliance in this area had increased to 95% (18 cases).
32. Timeliness of Domestic Abuse Notifications from the Police continues to vary. In January 2022 this ranged from the same day to 21 days, the average being 10 days after the incident was reported to Police. In September 2022, this ranged from 1 day to 35 days, again the average being 10 days after the incident was reported to Police.
33. This issue of delay in respect of Police Domestic Abuse Notifications was noted during the Ofsted focused visit in July 2021. West Mercia Police senior officers and partners, including WCF, worked together to support West Mercia in addressing this issue. The delays were attributed to police staffing challenges and, following additional resources being identified, the timeliness of Domestic Abuse Notifications have improved and is monitored through the Family Front Door Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Managers meeting and the Quality Assurance Practice and Procedures Group.

## **Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)**

34. In Worcestershire MARACs are held twice a month, one north and one south. WCF Team Managers attend these to represent children's social care within the meetings and contribute to the victim safety plans. The leads share information between the MARAC meeting and allocated worker and this ensures that adult records in Liquid logic Children's Social Care are updated, and the relevant information is added to the records of any children who are connected to the victim or perpetrator. There is a specific Liquid Logic form which holds the record from each MARAC meeting, making the information readily available for social workers to formulate their risk assessments and safety plans.
35. For children and young people who are exposed to, or experience, domestic abuse in Worcestershire, West Mercia Women's aid are commissioned to provide support as part of the Worcestershire domestic abuse strategy. This is part of a wider offer of help and support services for children and young people in social care.

## **Worcestershire Family Safeguarding model**

36. The Worcestershire Family Safeguarding Pilot is one of WCF's innovation projects, developed as part of the WCF Business Plan 2021-22, with a priority to support positive and timely outcomes for children at risk of significant harm and reduce care proceedings.
37. The pilot is a collaborative approach working alongside partner agencies in Public Health, Cranstoun, DRIVE and WMWA to support families to live healthier, happier and safer lives, specifically reducing issues impacting on the quality and adequacy of parenting associated with domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health.
38. As of 31st December 2021, Worcestershire Family Safeguarding had worked with 236 children.
  - 79% success rate in care prevention. 49 children became Looked After.
  - 75% success rate for reducing risk of harm. 61 children stepped up to a higher threshold - 49 became looked after and 12 children stepped up into pre-proceedings.
  - 34% success in decreasing need for statutory intervention. 80 children stepped down 46 down to Child in Need and 34 closed to Children Services.
  - 40% of children (96) maintained their plan status through intervention.

## **Operation Encompass**

39. Operation Encompass is a communication process between the Police, WCF, the Education Safeguarding Team and schools that informs schools when a child or young person has experienced any domestic incident that has been reported by the Police. This contact is intended to be prompt and made on the next school day. This information sharing between professional agencies allows school staff

to provide emotional and practical support to their pupils experiencing domestic abuse.

40. Since the launch of Operation Encompass in Worcestershire 2018, there have been over 12000 domestic abuse notifications sent to schools to August 2022. (Education Safeguarding team). The daily figure of domestic abuse notifications can range from 10 – 60 per day. (WCF Education Safeguarding team). 1 in 5 children in school will experience domestic abuse. (Operation Encompass data).
41. Operation Encompass ensures that a member of the school staff, usually the Designated Safeguarding Lead, is trained to enable them to liaise with the Police and WCF in receiving and using the information that has been shared, in confidence. Schools have welcomed this method of information sharing as it enables them to support and keep children safe and create the right environment for learning along with maintaining supportive relationships with families.

### **Operation Encompass – Early Years**

42. There is currently no facility to share information in a similarly effective manner about the very youngest children experiencing domestic abuse (0 - 5 years of age at the oldest). To address this, in 2021 Operation Encompass begun a series of national pilots to extend notifications to Early Years settings. In some areas the process is led by the local NHS providers using health visitors to make this communication.
43. Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership have committed to take part in this pilot which will start with communicating with those settings that WCF commission to provide early years funded education. There are approximately 490 settings of this type in Worcestershire serving 7000 children. The intention is to extend this pilot with health colleagues to include all children under 5 over time.
44. In November 2022 the Education Safeguarding Team will launch training for participating early years settings in Worcestershire to have suitably trained staff to be key adults for the management of Operation Encompass for their setting.
45. The evaluation of this pilot will be led by the Education Safeguarding Team and the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Head Teacher steering group where there is representation by the early years sector. Additionally, all participating early years settings will have an opportunity to complete an evaluation. WCF will report activity, impact and outcomes to the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership and Operation Encompass national programme.

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

46. The report sets out the background to the DA Act and its implementation and demonstrates how the Council's services are focused on supporting families and children and that working with WCF is a key element on this.
47. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- Consider and comment on the update provided by the Public Health Team and Worcestershire Children First;
- Determine whether any further information or scrutiny on a particular topic is required.
- Provide any comments to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health & Wellbeing and the Interim Director of Public Health.

### **Contact Points for this report**

Tim Rice, Head of Safer Communities (Public Health).

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Alyson Grice/Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officers Tel: 01905 844962/846607

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### **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) there are no specific background papers relating to the subject matter of this report

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

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 3 NOVEMBER 2022**

### **PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

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#### **Summary**

1. The Panel will be updated on performance information for services relating to Children and Families.
2. The Cabinet Members with Responsibility (CMRs) for Education and for Children and Families, and a Director of Worcestershire Children First have been invited to attend the meeting to respond to any queries from Panel Members.

#### **Performance Information**

3. Attached at Appendix 1 is a dashboard of performance information which covers the indicators from the Directorate level scorecard which relate to Education & Skills and SEND, for Quarter 2 (July to September 2022).
4. The Scrutiny Panels consider this information on a quarterly basis and then report by exception to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board any suggestions for further scrutiny or areas of concern.

#### **Purpose of the Meeting**

5. Following discussion of the information provided, the Scrutiny Panel is asked to determine:
  - any comments to highlight to the CMRs at the meeting and/or to Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board at its meeting on 16 November 2022
  - whether any further information or scrutiny on a particular topic is required.

#### **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 – Children and Families Performance Information Dashboard for Education & Skills and SEND.

#### **Contact Points**

Alyson Grice/Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844962/ 846607  
 Email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

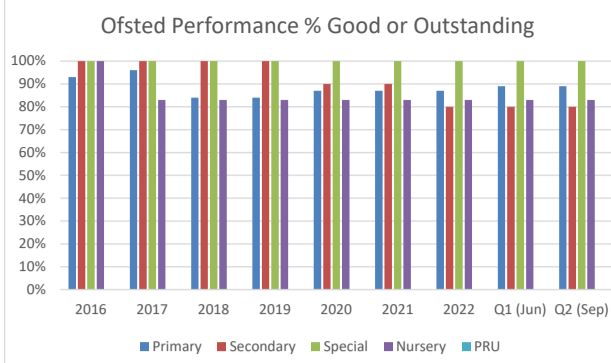
#### **Background Papers**

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

- Agendas and minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on 29 September, 20 July, 23 March 2022, 17 November, 30 September 2021
- Agendas and minutes of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 11 January, 7 July and 20 September 2022, 16 July, and 12 November 2021

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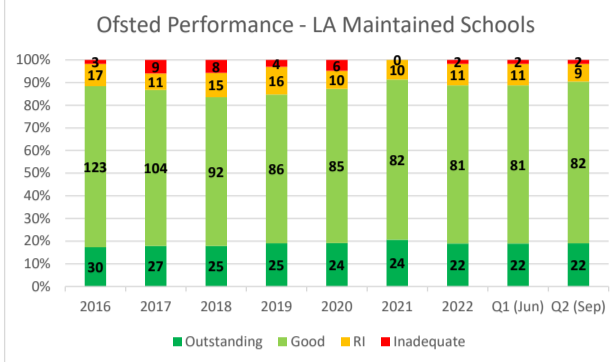




**Ofsted Performance - % Good or Outstanding - All Schools by phase**

*Please note Q1 shows June End and 2022 shows July end for year on year comparative purposes*

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)
Primary	89%	88%	83%	83%	83%	83%	81%	81%	82%
Secondary	93%	96%	84%	84%	87%	87%	87%	89%	89%
Special	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%	90%	80%	80%	80%
Nursery	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
PRU	100%	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%
All Worcs.	90%	90%	86%	84%	84%	84%	82%	82%	83%
England	89%	89%	84%	86%	86%	86%	88%	88%	88%



**Ofsted grades - LA Maintained Schools**

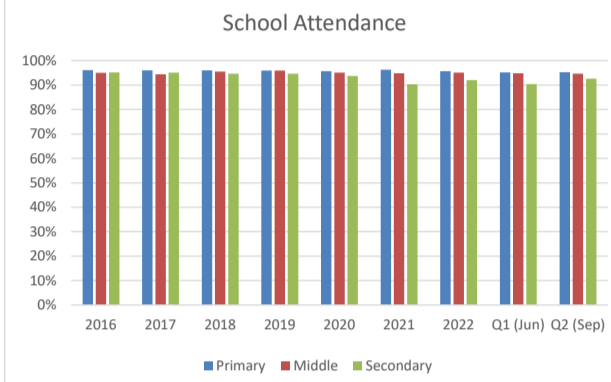
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)
Outstanding	30	27	25	25	24	24	22	22	22
Good	123	104	92	86	85	82	81	81	82
RI	17	11	15	16	10	10	11	11	9
Inadequate	3	9	8	4	6	0	2	2	2
Total	173	151	140	131	125	116	116	116	115
% O & G	88.4%	86.8%	83.6%	84.7%	87.2%	91.4%	88.8%	88.8%	90.4%

**Ofsted - Free Schools and Academies - ALL SCHOOLS**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)
Outstanding	17	21	22	20	17	17	18	18	18
Good	43	62	66	73	77	79	79	79	80
RI	2	2	6	8	10	10	11	10	11
Inadequate	1	2	9	11	14	20	18	19	19
No Ofsted Judgement	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Total	63	87	103	112	119	127	127	127	129
% O & G	95.2%	95.4%	85.4%	83.0%	79.0%	75.6%	76.4%	76.4%	76.0%

**Ofsted - Free Schools and Academies - Inspected since conversion**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)
% O & G	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	89.0%	89.0%	89.0%

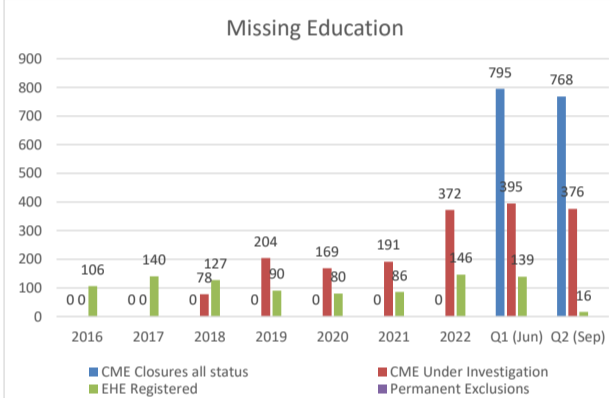


**School Attendance**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)
Primary	96.1%	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%	95.7%	96.3%	95.7%	95.2%	95.3%
Middle	95.0%	94.4%	95.5%	96.0%	95.1%	94.8%	95.1%	94.8%	94.7%
Secondary	95.2%	95.1%	94.7%	94.7%	93.7%	90.3%	92.0%	90.4%	92.6%
PRU	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	65.4%	52.2%	51.8%	58.1%
Special Schools	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	80.3%	84.6%	85.3%	87.9%

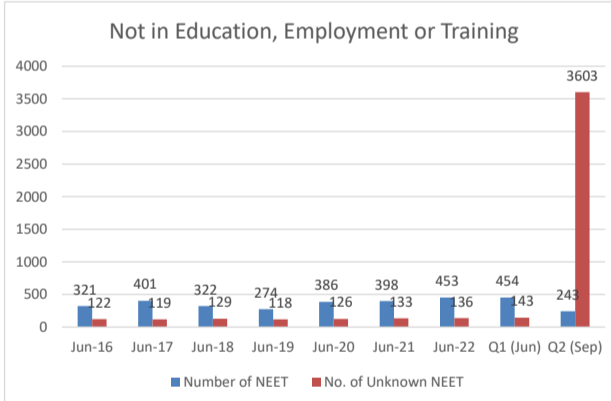
**National**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Primary	96.0%	96.0%	95.8%	96.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Secondary	94.8%	94.6%	94.5%	94.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a



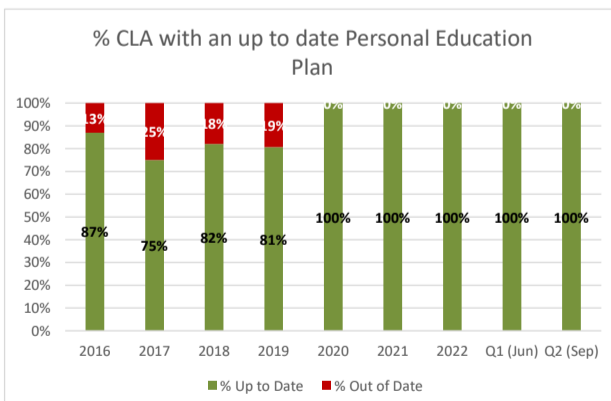
**Missing Education**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)
CME Under Investigation	n/a	n/a	78	204	169	191	372	395	376
CME Closures all status	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	795	768
EHE Registered	556	561	718	737	707	894	920	901	943
Permanent Exclusions	106	140	127	90	80	86	146	139	16



**Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET - 16 to 18 Year olds)**

	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-18	Jun-19	Jun-20	Jun-21	Jun-22	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)
Number of NEET	321	401	322	274	386	398	453	454	243
No. of Unknown NEET	122	119	129	118	126	133	136	143	3603



**% School age Children Looked After with an up to date Personal Education Plan**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)
% Up to Date	87%	75%	82%	81%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
% Out of Date	13%	25%	18%	19%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

**Commentary****Ofsted Performance to September 2022 end (New academic year)**

Since September 2022 there have been 8 published inspection reports:

Improved from Inadequate to Good = 0  
Improved from Requires Improvement to Good = 3  
Retained Good or Outstanding = 3

Declined to Requires Improvement = 1  
Declined to Inadequate = 0  
Retained Requires Improvement = 1

Of the eight inspections, 6 were of primary/first schools, 2 were of secondary schools.

In addition to this there have been inspections with positive outcomes since the start of term, which are yet to be published.

All maintained schools judged to be less than 'Good' receive intensive support from the School Improvement Team that will include half termly 'team around the school' meetings to provide support and challenge regarding the school's rapid improvement journey. Further support includes coaching, leadership development and learning and teaching support.

We have seen a particular focus in inspections on the curriculum and phonics provision, and also SEND provision aligning to the outcomes of the LA SEND reinspection. Of the reports, all 8 referred to SEND provision. 5 of these references described positive SEND practice with 3 identifying SEND practice as an area requiring development. Each of these 3 schools are working proactively with the School Improvement Team to rapidly improve their practice.

**Commentary****School Attendance**

Pre-Covid, year on year, attendance had been the same or better for each phase and this is also reflected in National figures. 2021-22 has shown a drop in attendance across all phases of education. This is mainly due to wider mental health/anxiety issues in both students and families initially caused by the affects of the pandemic. Across the 21/22 academic year, one in four children have less than 90% attendance (persistently absent) with 28 of our mainstream schools having less than 90% attendance (114 have less than 93%) and 15 of our Special Schools and PRU's having less than 90% attendance. These issues have continued into the new academic year (2022/23). The newly published 'Working together to Improve School Attendance' DFE guidance for September 2022 requires schools and LA's and partners to prioritise a focus and resources to support attendance. Every Worcestershire school (currently 267) will be expected to work with the LA to improve school attendance. \*Please note: figures in this report are based on attendance codes not on whether a student was physically in school during lockdown.

**Commentary****Children Missing Education**

The Q2 snapshot data continues to illustrate an increase of reported CME in Worcestershire (376), in comparison to previous years. A further 768 CME cases were successfully closed in the same Q2 period. Continued efforts to encourage schools, partners, external agencies and the public to utilise the centralised reporting mechanisms to enable the LA to uphold its statutory duties to identify, track, monitor and support CME are evident within this data.

CME cases continue to remain more complex in nature, post pandemic, and the longevity of required casework support, alongside increasing CME numbers continues to impact available capacity and timescales.

A further increase in CME reporting for 2022-2023 as schools ensure their adherence to new statutory guidance is anticipated. This will further impact upon demand.

**Elective Home Education (EHE)**

The number of EHE pupils in Worcestershire currently stands at 944, which is still a slight increase on previous years. Of these, 120 cases are registered as GRT EHE. This number has slightly decreased from that at the end of the Summer term 2021-22. EHE families continue to be supported through the EHE process.

Support is also given for any EHE pupils who may wish to return to school. We have seen an increase in more complex cases, involving participation with multi-agency meetings which is having a direct impact on capacity. We have seen a rise in the number of Year 11 students choosing to register as EHE, this figure continues to be monitored.

**Exclusions**

The number of permanent exclusions this academic year 2022-23 currently stands at 16. Of these 4 were primary cases and 12 secondary. The Exclusions Officer and Vulnerable Learner Team continues to offer support to Schools and families to take action at the earliest point possible when notified of a permanent exclusion and evidence is growing of successful exclusion prevention interventions by schools.

**Commentary****Not in Education, Employment or Training**

Pre-Covid, NEET figures had been falling year on year through a multi-agency approach to identify and remove barriers to participation where possible. The first Covid lockdown had an immediate impact on figures with a significant rise in June 2020. This has continued through 2021 with Q1 continuing to show this increase and is also affecting the 2021/22 academic year with Q4 continuing to show higher NEET figures. This increase has remained due to a decreasing pool of provision for employment /training opps and young people who in cases are suffering severe mental health issues exacerbated by the pandemic's periods of lockdown and isolation. The NEET team - WCF and WCC staff are collaborating to support and minimise this issue.

Please note: September Unknown Peak - Due to young people moving provision in September, there are a large number of unknowns that until WCF is notified by providers that they are EET they flag as 'unknown status'. Until these individuals are identified, the unknown figure remains high and is at its peak in September. This peak is understood by the DFE and Ofsted and as the month on month data shows reduces throughout the year.

**Commentary****Pre-school and Statutory School Age Personal Education Plan**

All CLA Pre-school to Year 11 receive three Personal Education Plan (PEP) contacts from a Virtual School Learning Advocate each year. This supports our children/young people who attend school both in and out of Worcestershire. The (PEP) meeting is undertaken via Microsoft Teams or face to face, this is dependent on the needs of the CLA and the context. The Designated Teacher (DT) and Social Worker (in consultation with the carer) are expected to upload relevant information to the (PEP) **prior to the meeting** and attend the meeting/consultation call. This enables effective conversations, focusing on evaluation of strategies to specifically meet the needs of individual CLA and methods of monitoring outcomes to measure success. Additional contacts are made throughout the term, with the DT, where transitions are imminent, complexity of situation or those identified as a result of (VS) pupil progress meetings. **There is a high rate of (PEP) completion each term (100%)**. All (PEP) meetings scheduled to take place are completed. There is an improving quality of information in the (PEP) document due to: professional development for Designated Teachers and Social Care colleagues, clarity of information and expectations from the Virtual School (VS) and support / guidance offered by (VS) staff which impacts on the quality of information shared in the (PEP) process. WVS quality assures various aspects of the PEP process and content. The quality of PEPs will take a significant boost through the pending introduction of a full Quality Assurance system by developing a bespoke RAG rating system within Welfare Call which prompts actions from identified parties.

**Post 16 Personal Progression Plans (PPPs)**

All year 12 and 13 CLA have a scheduled (PPP). **There is a high rate of (PEP) completion each term (100%)**. These are facilitated by VS Post 16 Learning Advocates. This is a new role within the VS this academic year. The Designated Practitioner/Teacher (DT) and Social Worker (in consultation with the carer) upload relevant information to the (PPP) **prior to the meeting** and attend the meeting/consultation call. PPP support for students in FE Colleges has been enhanced over 2021-22 (Oct-March) & 2022-23 (Sept-July) by WVS being successful in bidding to take part in The Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) Post-16 pilot, which responds to the need for additional financial support by testing proof of concept of extending PP+ support to looked-after children and care leavers in general FE colleges

**Pupils Causing Concern**

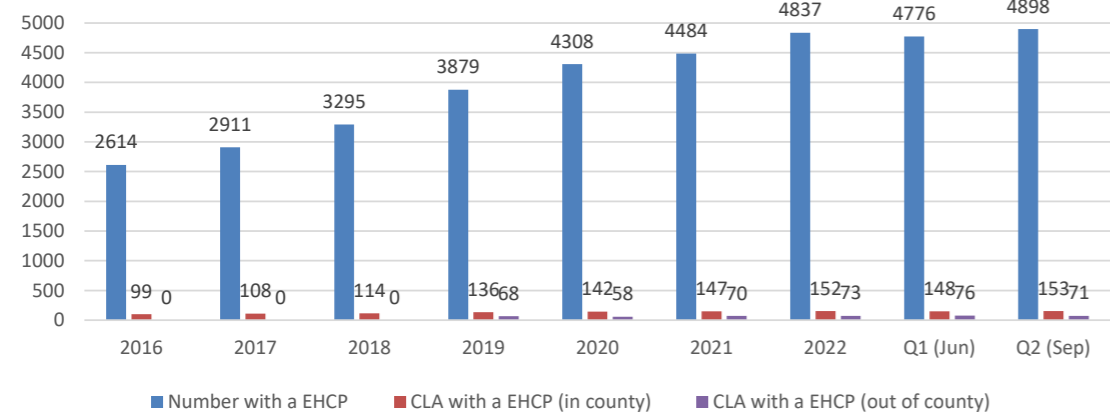
There are regular meetings with Social Care to discuss pupils at risk of CME, less than 25 hours of education and those where there is a delay in placing in school provision. Termly pupil progress meetings are held within WVS, which focus on pupils who are not making progress against their own challenging targets and those who have a negative approach to their learning. The discussions result in individual plans of action for prioritised CLA.

**Quality Assurance**

Half-termly quality assurance activities focus on specific groups of CLA or themes, these reflect the priorities within the Virtual School Improvement Plan. VSHT and VS Education Co-ordinator attend PEP/PPP meetings on a regular basis to offer support, advice and guidance to VS Learning Advocates and to monitor the quality of the interaction.

The quality of PEPs will take a significant boost through the pending introduction of a full Quality Assurance system by developing a bespoke RAG rating system within Welfare Call which prompts actions from identified parties.

Children with a Education Health Care Plan

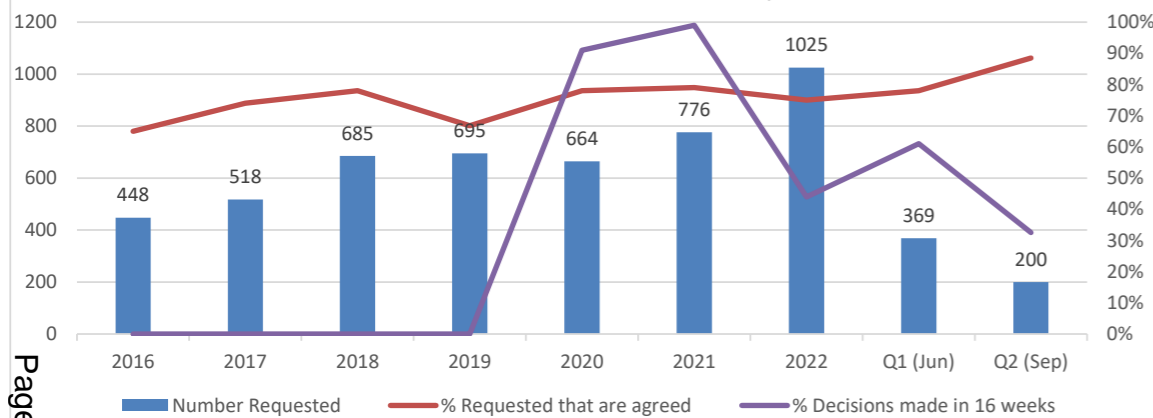


**Children with a Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)**

*Please note Q1 shows June End and 2022 shows July end for year on year comparative purposes*

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)
Number with a EHCP	2614	2911	3295	3879	4308	4484	4837	4776	4898
CLA with a EHCP (in county)	99	108	114	136	142	147	152	148	153
CLA with a EHCP (out of county)	n/a	n/a	n/a	68	58	70	73	76	71
CIN with a EHCP	n/a	n/a	n/a	74	113	65	119	123	113
CPP with a EHCP	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	22	24	38	32	37
EH plans with a EHCP	n/a	n/a	n/a	43	0 (covid)	31	31	34	44

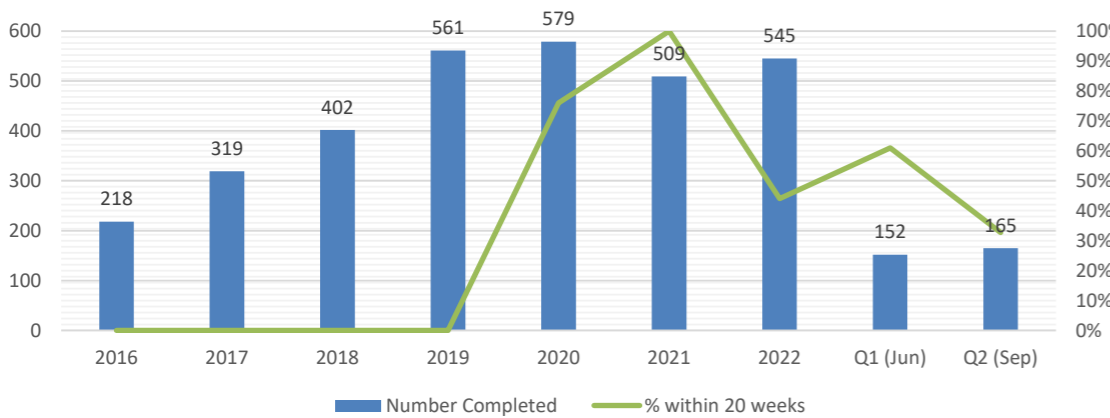
New Education and Health Care plans



**New Education and Health Care Plans (Statutory Timescales minus exceptions)**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)
Number Requested	448	518	685	695	664	776	1025	369	200
% Requested that are agreed	65%	74%	78%	67%	78%	79%	75%	78%	89%
% Decisions made in 16 weeks (minus exceptions)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	91%	99%	44%	61%	33%

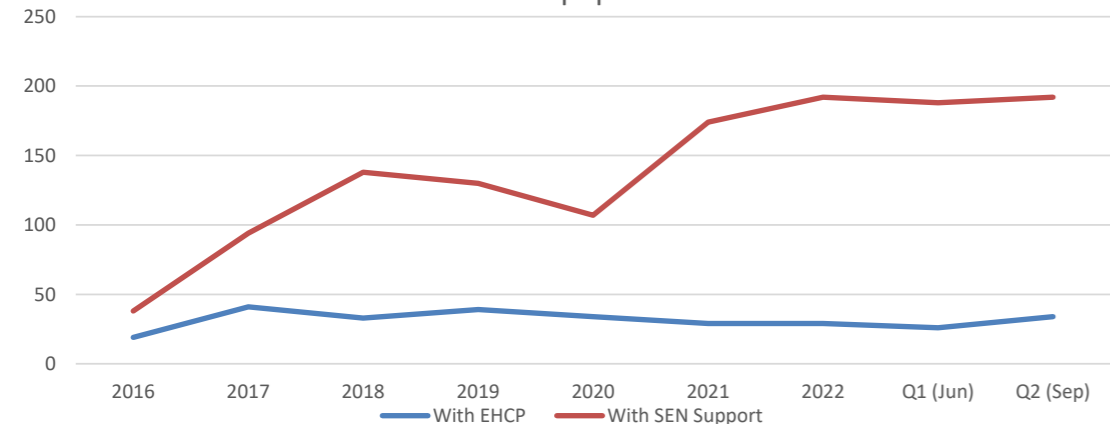
Number of EHCP completed and timeliness



**Number of EHCPs completed and % within 20 weeks (Statutory Timescales minus exceptions)**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)
Number Completed	218	319	402	561	579	509	545	152	165
% within 20 weeks (minus exceptions)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	76%	100%	44%	61%	33%

Number of EHE pupils with SEND



**Number of Elective Home Educated pupils with SEND**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)
With EHCP	19	41	33	39	34	29	29	26	34
With SEN Support	38	94	138	130	107	174	192	188	192

**Commentary****Number of EHCP's**

There continues to be increased demand and as expected the numbers of children with an EHCP as at Quarter 2 has already exceeded the 2022 number. The analysis of children and young people with additional needs, identified as Children looked After (CLA) in and out of county, subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP), Children in Need (CIN) and Early Help (EH) remains fairly consistent.

**EHCP's requested and timeliness**

As previously reported the number of EHC needs assessments requested continues to increase. The number of EHC needs assessments that have been agreed over the last 2 years as a percentage is fairly consistent and in line with the national average. However as can be seen there has been an increase in quarter 2 which will be further analysed to understand the reasons for this.

The performance over the last quarter of decisions being made within 16 weeks and the % of assessments completed within 20 weeks has reduced. This was expected due to the increased demand and the capacity of Educational Psychologists and health colleagues to, meet the demand, within the required statutory timescales. For Educational Psychologists (EP) a number of actions have been taken and a recovery plan is in place. This includes increasing the EP establishment i.e. by 1 senior EP, 5 Main Grade EP's and 3 Assistant EP's.

There are concerns regarding the health systems ability and capacity to meet the ongoing demands and the impact of increasing waiting lists for children to be seen by health colleagues. This is compounded by the issues relating to carenotes, the Trust's electronic patient record system. This issue has affected several Trusts across the country who use Carenotes. Carenotes continues to be unavailable, health colleagues have reported that this prevents them accessing patient notes which has a significant impact on the quality of advice provided. This issue has been escalated to senior managers within the Trust who have been asked to evidence the recovery plan to address this issue.

The delay in Educational Psychologists and health advice being received places pressure on the SEND team to review the advice, make a decision and issue the plan within statutory timescales.

**Commentary****Elective Home Educated Children with SEND**

The number of children with an EHCP who are electively home educated (EHE) has increased since the last quarter. However the numbers are generally consistent year on year. This will continue to be monitored and individual reasons analysed to understand the reasons for the return to school following a period of home education.

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 3 NOVEMBER 2022**

### **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) ACCELERATED PROGRESS PLAN - UPDATE**

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#### **Summary**

1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and the Director of All Age Disability (Worcestershire Children First (WCF) have been invited to the meeting to update the Panel following the Department for Education (DfE)/NHS England (NHSE) Review of the SEND Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) that took place on 22 September 2022.

#### **Background**

2. In February 2022, the Panel received a report on the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) Special Educational Needs revisit in Worcestershire that had taken place in November 2021. The purpose of the revisit was to decide whether sufficient progress had been made in addressing the twelve areas of weakness as set out in the written statement of action drawn up in response to the findings of the SEND Local Area Inspection in 2018.
3. The November 2021 revisit identified that progress had been made in addressing eight of the significant weaknesses identified at the initial inspection and four significant weakness remained outstanding. An outcome of this revisit inspection was that the Local Area was required by the DfE and NHSE to produce an APP to demonstrate how the remaining areas of weaknesses would be addressed.
4. The APP sought to address the four remaining areas of weakness as follows:
  - The variation in the skills and commitment of some mainstream schools to provide effective support for children who have SEND.
  - The lack of suitable specialist provision to meet the identified needs of children and young people.
  - Fragile relationships with parents and carers and a lack of meaningful engagement and co-production and collaboration.
  - The poor quality of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC Plans) and limited contributions from health and social care along with the process to check and review the quality of EHC plans.
5. Since the implementation of the APP, the progress of the 4 workstreams have been carefully tracked. A summary of the progress to date was presented to DfE/NHSE colleagues during the review held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 (attached as Appendix 1). This outlined the progress reached at the 6-month review stage.

## **Purpose of the meeting**

6. The Panel is asked to:

- Consider and comment on the information provided in respect of the actions set out in the SEND APP;
- Determine whether any further Scrutiny is required; and
- Provide comments to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and the Director of All Age Disability

## **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 – WCF Accelerated Progress Plan - 6-month overview.

## **Contact Point**

Mel Barnett, Director of All Age Disability, Tel: 01905 643696 Email: [mbarnett1@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:mbarnett1@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

## **Background Papers**

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

Agendas and Minutes of Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 8 August 2018, 6 March 2019, 13 November 2019, 16 June 2020 and 23 February 2022.

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

Accelerated Progress Plan  
6 Month Review  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

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# Accelerated Progress Plan

## 6 Month Review

### Vision and Priorities

**Through the development of the All-Age Disability Service, we want to ensure that in Worcestershire we want all children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities to be truly seen and respected as individuals and to be the best they can be.**

- Identification and assessment of SEND is timely and effective
- There is an effective continuum of SEND provision
- There is awareness and understanding of SEND within local communities
- There is effective planning so that CYP with SEND experience positive transitions as they progress through their education
- Outcomes for young people with SEND are improved as a result of effective preparation for adulthood planning and better coordination of service delivery
- CYP with autism access the right support to meet their holistic needs and achieve their potential
- Emotional health and wellbeing is actively promoted for CYP with SEND and effective targeted and specialist support is available for those at risk of, or experiencing difficulties

### Aims

- To be person-centered, with co-production at all levels
- To be strength based - enabling and empowering individuals and families
- To build on strengths of local community assets, including schools and colleges
- To be Needs and Outcomes focused on all aspects of our work
- To always consider preparation for adulthood
- To be supporting individuals to be close to home, in and part of the local community
- To have an enabled and empowered workforce
- To be evidenced and intelligence informed

## The variation in the skills and commitment of some mainstream schools to provide effective support for children who have SEND

Progress	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 32 maintained schools have undertaken pre-Ofsted SEND health checks. A further 16 schools are planned for the Autumn term</li> <li>• Of the 41 Ofsted school inspection reports published since inspection 27 refer to positive practice for SEND and inclusion and 5 refer to development actions required</li> <li>• The SENDCo network is now being led from 2022 by WCF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of data provides a better understanding of inclusive practice in schools.</li> <li>• 60 schools have registered for the Education Endowment Fund SEND Inclusion project 2022</li> <li>• A further 17 schools have registered for the Inclusion Quality Mark</li> <li>• Each of the 5 schools with development actions has support plan in place</li> <li>• A single a coordinated approach with SENDCo including the use of Whole School SEND Support</li> </ul>

## The lack of suitable specialist provision to meet the identified needs of children and young people

Progress	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our SEND provision report, SEND Roundtable proposals and sufficiency reporting has been reviewed</li> <li>• Submission of expression of interest to the DfE Free School Wave for Special Schools</li> <li>• Development of Main Stream Autism Bases (MABs)</li> <li>• Development of Early Years Language Support provision</li> <li>• Working with mainstream schools in 2022/23 to increase understanding in difference and type of provision specifically at a locality level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of the capacity and demand in the local area and a 5-year plan developed</li> <li>• Opportunity to increase and improve the provision available to children and young people in Worcestershire</li> <li>• Increased understanding of provision requirements at a locality level</li> </ul>

## Fragile relationships with parents and carers and lack of meaningful engagement and coproduction and collaboration

Progress	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent / Carer representatives attend each workstream meeting</li> <li>• WCF have reached out to 21 parent/carer representative groups to engage them in parent stakeholder meeting -this is an open invitation</li> <li>• Consultation and or coproduction activities underway include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Co-production E- learning Module</li> <li>○ Use of language in health partnerships</li> <li>○ Communication</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved communication and the development of relationships</li> <li>• Opportunities for parent carers to support the developments in the local area</li> <li>• The stakeholder group are focussing on specific pieces of work and task and finish groups are being developed</li> <li>• Solutions being offered that support integrated learning and shared goals between WCF and parent carers</li> <li>• Sharing of information and work being undertaken in the parent carer community</li> <li>• Coordinated developments which will improve the delivery of outcomes</li> </ul>

## The poor quality of EHCPs and limited contribution from health and social care along with the process to check and review the quality of EHC plans

Progress	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality Assurance and Performance Management Framework developed</li> <li>• Parent / Carer voice in developments</li> <li>• Development of service user feedback</li> <li>• Development of Practice Standards</li> <li>• Development of learning reports and briefings</li> <li>• Weekly performance updates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of training needs which is informed by quality assurance tools that are being utilised and service user feedback</li> <li>• Growing understanding of service user experience through engagement with parent carers</li> <li>• Improved multi agency working and a growing shared responsibility regarding the content of EHCPs</li> <li>• Through performance reporting we can promote continuous improvement which informs next steps</li> </ul>

## Quality Assurance in SEND

Progress	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of the audit programme. 21 audits completed (63 pieces of audited practice)</li><li>• Development of service user feedback in New EHCP (43 families)</li><li>• Appointment of dedicated SEND complaints officer to increase direct comms with parent/carers and timeliness</li><li>• Development of Complaints and Compliments processes internally and with Health.</li><li>• First complaints and compliments analysis report received: 13 complaints covering 44 points and 21 compliments</li><li>• Continued use of the comprehensive SEND DASH</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Base line for quality of practice established:</li><li>• 86% RI / 9% Inadequate / 5% Good</li><li>• Service user feedback improvement from qtr. 4 to qtr. 1 in all areas with highest positive response re parental involvement and aspirational plans received from 93% of parents/carers</li><li>• Evidenced our top challenge for our partnership that “need met within the plan” continues to be parents greatest concern</li><li>• 77% complaints managed with timescale. Only 1 /13 progressed to stage 2</li><li>• An understanding of the parent/carer experience to base our learning and improvement</li></ul>

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**3 NOVEMBER 2022**

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

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#### **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.

#### **Background**

2. 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
3. The Work Programme (attached at Appendix 1), is part of the Council's rolling Annual Work Programme which was discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) on 29 June 2022 and agreed by Council on 14 July 2022.

#### **Purpose of the Meeting**

4. The Panel is asked to consider the 2022/23 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 2022/23

#### **Contact Points**

Alyson Grice/ Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844962 / 846607 Email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

#### **Background Papers**

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

[Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board 29th June 2022](#)

[Agenda for Council on 14th July 2022.](#)

## Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Issue for Scrutiny</b>	<b>Date of Last Report</b>	<b>Notes/Follow-up Action</b>
3 November 2022	Quality Assurance in children's services including complaints and voice of the child		
	Domestic Abuse – Children and Young People		
	Performance (Q2 July to September) and In-Year Budget Monitoring		
	Update following DfE/NHSE Review of the SEND Accelerated Action Plan in September 2022	23 February 2022	
January 2023	Scrutiny of 2023/24 Budget		
	Delivery Model for Medical Education Provision – Update	16 March 2021	
	School Nurse Service		Requested by Panel 7 July 2022. To cover current provision and plans for the future.
	Children's Social Care Workforce		
March 2023	Annual Update on Educational Performance Outcomes		
	Performance (Q3 October to December) and In-Year Budget Monitoring		
May 2023	Update on GET SAFE and GET THERE		Requested by Panel 10 May 2022
June/July 2023	All Age Disability (0-25) Service (ongoing Scrutiny of the transformation of the Service)	11 January 2021	(Jointly with Adult Care and Well Being O&S Panel) To provide feedback on consultation, timeline, KPIs.

July 2023	WSCP Annual Safeguarding Report	July 2022	
TBC	Update on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Accelerated Progress Plan	23 February 2022	
TBC	Worcestershire Children First Independent Fostering Service Ofsted Inspection (reinspection)	23 February 2022	Following next inspection
TBC	Ofsted Inspecting local authority children's services (ILACS) Inspection – Feedback	11 September 2019	ILACS inspection due post July 2022
TBC	Current organisation of Education within the County (2 tier/3 tier)		Requested by Panel 16 July 2021 To be considered when further KS2 data available
TBC	Vulnerable Learners (to include children missing education, Elective Home Education, Young People not in education, employment of training (NEETS), exclusions and alternative provision)		To remain on the work programme (Requested 12 Nov 2021). More up to date data requested
TBC	Update on the Assessment Pathway for children who have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).		Requested by Panel 11 January 2022
TBC	Autism provision and the availability of places within education settings		Requested by Panel 10 May 2022
TBC	Nursery provision for 2-year-olds		
<b>Standing Items</b>			
March	Education Performance outcomes		Annually
July	WSCP Annual Safeguarding Report		Annually
November/January	Budget Scrutiny		



March/July/September/November	Quarterly Performance and In-Year Budget Monitoring		

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