

Agenda

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 7 July 2022, 10.00 am
County Hall, Worcester

All County Councillors are invited to attend and participate

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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/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, 7 July 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 of England)

Parent Governor Representatives (for education matters)

Mr M Hughes

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 Assistant Director for Legal and Governance 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 6 July 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	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (previously circulated)	
5	Strengthening the Youth Offer in Worcestershire (Indicative timing: 10.05 - 10.40am)	1 - 4
6	Update on the support being provided to the children and families living in Worcestershire as part of the Ukraine Settlement Schemes (Indicative timing: 10.40 – 11.20am)	5 - 14
7	Performance and 2021/22 Year End Budget monitoring (Indicative timing: 11.20 – 11.50am)	15 - 42

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

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8	Work Programme (Indicative timing: 11.50am – 12 noon)	43 - 48

NOTES

Webcasting

Members 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 7 JULY 2022

STRENGTHENING THE YOUTH OFFER IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Summary

1. The Panel is asked to consider the steps taken to review and strengthen the Council's youth offer and inform the recommissioning of the Council's funded youth services.
2. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health & Well Being and the Interim Director of Public Health have been invited to attend the meeting.

Background

3. The local authority under Section 507B of the Education Act 1996, has a statutory duty to *'...to secure, so far as is reasonably practical, access to sufficient services and activities for young people aged 13 to 19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24, for the positive, preventative and early help they need to improve their well-being and personal and social development'*.
4. The duty covers youth services and activities for young people. This includes responsibilities to involve young people, taking their views in to account, and to coordinate and effectively publicise the local youth offer to young people and their families. The services and activities are not prescribed, rather the local authority is expected to understand the needs of young people. It should determine the mix of open access, targeted, preventative and specialist provision needed, and prioritise those at risk of poor outcomes. Further, it should support capacity building, enable others to fund and provide services, and assure the quality of the local offer.
5. The National Youth Agency (NYA) defines youth work as 'a distinct educational process adapted across a variety of settings to support a young person's personal, social and educational development'. As such it is helpful to recognise youth work as an approach with multiple variables that supports young people where they engage voluntarily.
6. There are three general evidence-based domains which encompass delivery of youth work interventions,
 - a. universal open access youth clubs and centres - which young people engage with voluntarily, allows youth workers to build relationships with young people over a sustained period. This enables the identification of risky behaviours and gives the opportunity to offer support 'upstream' before they have a negative impact.
 - b. detached youth work - a more targeted approach and enables youth workers to engage with young people who are unlikely to attend

building-based provision. Agencies, such as the police or schools can use this service to enable interventions to prevent causes of concern from escalating.

- c. one to one mentoring - for young people who are at risk of disengaging from education or who require additional or alternative support. This can bring formal education (schools and colleges) and nonformal education (youth work and youth services) together.

7. In Worcestershire, each of these domains exist. There are a range of statutory and voluntary and community sector organisations who deliver youth services, activities and groups across the county. Funding for these comes from a range of sources including, the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), District Councils, community safety partnerships, the National Lottery plus subscriptions and fees.

8. Since 2016, the Council has funded 14 open access 'Positive Activities' contracts across the county and a supporting infrastructure contract, mainly from the voluntary and community sector. The recommissioning of these contracts is overdue. In addition, to support young people who were disproportionately impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic, additional enhanced youth support has been funded for a short-term period from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) via District Councils to deliver detached youth work and some targeted or one to one mentoring.

Reasons for Review of the Youth Offer

9. The local youth offer, which needs to be publicised widely, includes information, advice and guidance for young people in relation to:

- a. health and wellbeing
- b. social and leisure activities
- c. skills for life
- d. supporting communities and making a positive contribution

10. Current Council funded contracts are required to be recommissioned from April 2023. This presents an opportunity to review the youth offer and youth strategy and to review the youth provision funded by the Council.

Engagement and Analysis

11. In May 2022 an [Adolescent Health Profile](#) was published. The main findings from the Adolescent Health Profile were that the health of Worcestershire's young people overall is better than the England average. However, disadvantaged young people and those living in more deprived communities are likely to experience poorer health and life outcomes. The localities where young people are less likely to fare well are located within Redditch, Worcester City and Wyre Forest. The aspects of health most likely to be impacted are mental health, life chances through educational qualifications and obesity, including in deprived rural communities.

12. COVID-19 had a greater impact on the mental health and wellbeing of young people who were disadvantaged economically and those with pre-existing mental health problems. Population groups such as young carers, lesbian, gay, bisexual

and transgender (LGBT) young people and young people from some Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds were also more likely to have experienced poorer mental health throughout the pandemic. There is emerging evidence to suggest an increased prevalence of symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety.

13. A youth needs assessment has been undertaken including engagement with a variety of stakeholders and young people and mapping of youth services and activities.

14. The views from over 120 young people were collected via 8 focus groups. The focus groups were delivered by youth workers or adults experienced in working with 13 to 19-year-olds. The focus groups collected views of young people from each district in the county plus LGBTQ+ young people, young people with special educational needs and disabilities and young people from Eastern European ethnicities, Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (GRT) young people and other ethnic minority groups. Feedback was also collected by Public Health from a range of communities in the county, in relation to the impact of the pandemic, including young people, which have also been used in the assessment of need. In addition, the Youth Cabinet were consulted on their experiences, and experiences reported to them, of youth clubs and groups.

15. A range of stakeholders were consulted in relation to youth provision in the County. This included youth service providers, District Councils, County drug and alcohol service - young people's service, sexual health services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, NHS Starting Well services, Worcestershire Children First (WCF), West Mercia Police plus CLIMB¹ Diversionary Activities, Youth Justice Service and Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

16. A mapping exercise was undertaken to provide insight into the distribution of youth services, including Scouting, Guiding and other uniformed youth services plus County Council funded provision.

Needs Assessment Summary

17. The needs assessment concluded that:

- a. There is a need for a mixed model of open access, detached and one to one youth provision; the levels and mix by need differs by District.
- b. There are gaps in open access youth provision in some areas of deprivation and for some minority groups.
- c. Young people report that accessing open access provision in rural areas is difficult.
- d. Young people and stakeholders report difficulties finding information about local youth services and the specific support that is offered
- e. There are fewer numbers of qualified professional and support youth workers compared with NYA guidance.
- f. Youth services and groups are not always joined up with other services.
Where localised youth networks are functioning, there is greater collaboration

¹ CLIMB is a service for vulnerable young people who maybe missing from school and at risk of being drawn into criminal activity. It offers them activities and opportunities to recognise risky situations, form healthy friendships and new passions.

- with local services, including schools. Services are more aware of local provision; its role and how young people can be supported by youth workers.
- g. Short term funding can limit the achievement of long-term outcomes and introduces instability within youth services.
 - h. Young people want to access youth provision locally, delivered by trusted adults who can support them.
 - i. There is support for coordination of a county strategy, a youth outcomes framework, shared principles and consistency of quality.

18. The engagement work and needs assessment process will support the development of a strengthened youth offer, refreshed youth strategy and inform the recommissioning of the Council's funded youth provision.

Current planned process

19. A report is being prepared and will be taken to Cabinet, proposing:
- a. a strategy for youth services be developed,
 - b. the youth offer be coordinated and publicised,
 - c. an approach that supports ongoing youth capacity building,
 - d. the Council's funded provision to be recommissioned.

Purpose of the Meeting

20. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:
- Consider and comment on the steps taken.
 - Determine whether any further information or scrutiny is required.
 - Provide any comments to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health & Wellbeing and the Interim Director of Public Health.

Contact Points

Liz Altay, Interim Director of Public Health laltay@worcestershire.gov.uk

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no 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 7 JULY 2022

Update on the support being provided to the children and families living in Worcestershire as part of the Ukraine Settlement Schemes

Summary

1. The Panel is asked to consider an update on the support being provided to the children and families living in Worcestershire as part of the Ukraine Settlement Schemes.
2. The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Education and for Children and Families, the Director of Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Education Place Planning and the Assistant Director of Communities have been invited to attend this meeting for the discussion.

Background

3. At its meetings on 23 March and 26 April 2022, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) received an update on the Worcestershire Response to Invasion of Ukraine. The details of the two Schemes available ie the Family Visa Scheme and The Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme are detailed in the OSPB Agenda's dated 23rd March, 2022 and 26th April, 2022.
4. Arising from the discussions at this meeting, a detailed report was requested about the plans to provide support to children and families from Ukraine living in Worcestershire, including plans for school provision in the communities that the Ukrainian guests will be living, any specialist support that schools would be able to access (such as trauma support or language help), and any other support being provided by Worcestershire Children First and partners.

Government Funding for School

5. The Government is providing additional funding to councils to provide education services for children from families arriving from Ukraine under the scheme. The Department for Education (DfE) will allocate funding on a per pupil basis for the three phases of education at the following annual rates:

- Early years (ages 2 to 4) - £3,000
- Primary (ages 5 -11) - £6,580
- Secondary (ages 11-18) - £8,755

6. The DfE will be updating local authorities on the mechanisms by which this will be distributed and when the funding will be available. The date of this update is yet to be confirmed.

Worcestershire Data

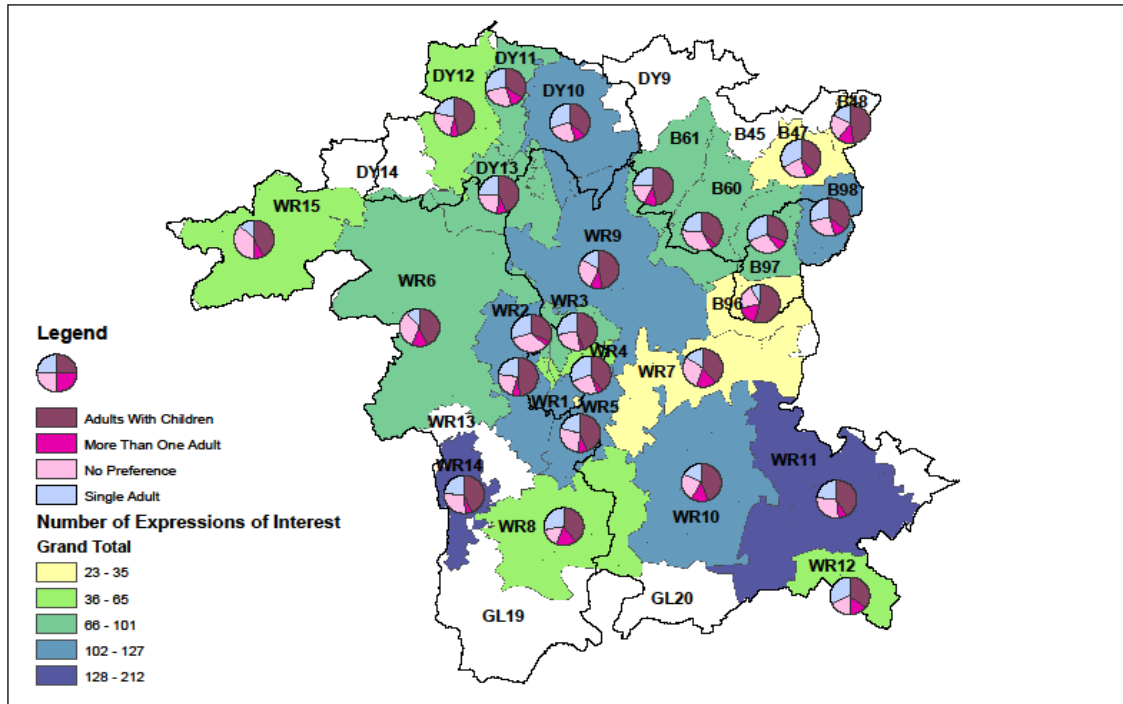
7. Worcestershire had its first data transfer on Tuesday 22 March 2022, the system is updated daily with new sponsors and guests as and when a match has happened. Current information suggests the following breakdown for Sponsors and Guests across Districts (as of 14 June 2022). Numbers change on a daily basis as those households who have expressed an interest find a match with Ukrainian guests.

8. Data as at 14/06/2022 inc. number of children split by school stage

Districts	No of Host Properties	No of Expected Guests	No of children – Pre School	No of Children – Primary	No of Children - Secondary
To be confirmed	0	7	1	1	
Bromsgrove	51	128	8	22	16
Malvern Hills	108	273	21	57	32
Redditch	21	43	4	9	1
Worcester City	72	156	3	28	25
Wychavon	136	337	22	51	42
Wyre Forest	42	91	8	16	6
Total	430	1035	67	184	122

9. The information on sponsors and guests is shared across County and District colleagues daily via a national data transfer platform (Foundry). All local authorities now have access to this and are able to see the increase in numbers of host properties as well as the visa status (i.e., issued/pending) for Ukraine guests.

10. Worcestershire is now also in receipt of data from central government around the total number of expressions of interest to host Ukrainian guests by Worcestershire household. As mentioned previously, the national figure is around 150,000 and a first look at the data suggests that the total figure for Worcestershire is 2431. Work has now commenced on modelling the potential demand if all these households were to host guests. The map below shows the distribution of expressions of interest and the sponsors preference of age ranges of guests (e.g. Adult with children, single adult, adult group, no preference). District maps are also being produced.



Homes for Ukraine - Expressions of Interest - Snapshot 16 May 2022

Safeguarding

11. The issue of unaccompanied children arriving into the UK under this scheme is in development. Some local authorities have identified unaccompanied children and, like all Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), they have been accommodated into local authority care. To date, Worcestershire have received only one young person under 18 (almost 18yrs) and interim arrangements were made with the host family.

12. Over recent weeks the Government has been considering options for how Ukrainian minors, who are not travelling with or joining their parent or legal guardian, could be supported to travel to the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Some young people may be travelling with or joining a relative, others may be travelling to stay with a matched sponsor as per the adult scheme.

13. The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) has been working closely with Government departments on what the process could look like and what additional safeguards would be needed over and above those already required as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, before opening it up to young people under the age of 18 and to consider how this fits into the now mandatory National Transfer Scheme.

Education Update – school places for Ukrainian children

14. All children and young people arriving under these schemes have the right to access education and childcare whilst in the UK. The best place for all children to be educated is in schools, and attending school is vital to help newly arrived children integrate as quickly as possible into the communities in which they are living.

15. Local authorities also have an important role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. The DLUHC has published guidance for local authorities on the Homes for Ukraine scheme [Government guidance](#), information on access to education and childcare can be found on pages 32-39. For children it is widely accepted that attending school is an important protective factor.

16. To supplement this, the DfE have updated the Gov.uk page on [school access rights for pupils from overseas](#) and have provided some questions and answers to DLUHC's [Homes for Ukraine FAQ page](#). In addition DfE have also provided information in Ukrainian [How do families arriving from Ukraine apply for a school place and childcare? / Як родинам, що приїжджають з України, подавати заяви на отримання місць у школі та допомоги з оплати послуг з догляду за дитиною? - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

17. The Government's expectation is that if there are school places available in the local area, even if not in the immediate vicinity of the family's home, the local authority will work with families arriving from Ukraine to enable the children to attend school as soon as possible.

18. The Secretary of State for Education has stated local authorities should be looking to provide places and, where necessary, use the flexibilities to admit above published admission number (PAN) and exceed the infant class size limit, as well as using the in-year Fair Access Protocol. The School Admissions Code applies to the admission to school of Ukraine arrivals, in the same way as it does to all other children. Local authorities have a duty to support local parents in choosing schools. DfE, are therefore looking to local authorities to support refugees with:

- information on where schools have vacancies; and
- how to apply.

19. In Worcestershire access to information and the admission application process is being supported by Here2Help. Support to assist with admissions is available via School Admissions on 01905 844 111 or email at schooladmissions@worcchildrenfirst.org.uk The WCF website has information in relation to how to make an application for anyone arriving in the county, that requires a school place. In addition, anyone contacting the Worcestershire Hub in relation to School Admissions, on 01905 822 700, are signposted to WCF, if the query is not something Customer Service Advisors can answer from their extensive School Admissions knowledge base. The School Admissions Team, have a designated placement officer for each geographical area of the county who can support sponsors, families and schools through the process. The Worcestershire Hub have the specific contact details of individuals and can direct calls to where they need to go.

20. When the parents of any child, apply for a school place, admission authorities should aim to notify parents of the outcome of an application for a school within 10 school days and that they must do so within 15 school days. Where there are no school places within a reasonable distance of the child's home, the Local Authority (LA) should use its fair access protocol to place them within 20 school days.

21. Parents who are refugees from Ukraine have the same rights as any other families living within the UK to a school place for their child. This means that they have a right to express a preference for a school rather than their children being placed in schools they may not want them to attend which have vacancies. Local authorities should therefore advise these families where vacancies exist and how to apply for a school.

22. If no schools within a reasonable distance of a child's home have vacancies or are not able to admit more pupils, the local authority should place those children under its in-year fair-access protocol, in the same way it will place all other hard to place children. A school place must be allocated under the protocol for all children referred to it within 20 school days. Arrangements should be made for the child to start at the school as soon as possible.

Applications to Date

23. DfE have collected from every local authority across England, data collections in relation to overseas arrivals, the data collected so far is in relation to the period 1st September 2021 to 27th May 2022. Thereafter, data is being returned on a monthly basis. The table below, Table A, shows the range of school applications received.

Table A

	Afghanistan	Hong Kong	Ukraine	Other Overseas
Primary Applications Received	33	12	102	234
Secondary Applications Received	12	8	77	140
Total	45	20	179	374

24. As of 14 June 2022, a total of 214 applications have been received from Ukraine arrivals. 201 children have been offered a school place, and 13 applications are currently being processed, having been received in the last few days. Table B below shows by district council area the offers of school places:

Table B

District	Number of Offers Primary	Number of Offers Secondary	Pending Applications	Total
Bromsgrove	13	10	2	25
Malvern Hills	24	9	0	33
Redditch	7	0	0	7
Worcester City	28	20	3	51
Wychavon	47	28	8	83
Wyre Forest	9	5	1	15
Total	128	72	14	214

Fair Access

25. In certain areas across the county, and in some year groups, there are limited places available in schools. Where the local authority has not been able to offer a place within a reasonable distance, then a referral to Fair Access is made. Fair Access panel meetings are usually held once each half term. However, because it is vital to help newly arrived children integrate as quickly as possible into the communities in which they are living, requests have been made virtually, prior to meetings.

26. In terms of the number of Ukraine arrivals, that have been referred for action under Fair Access, to date, there have been 2 referrals, both of which were successfully placed and are now on roll in schools.

Support in Schools

27. WCF continue to update schools using the Education Bulletin, on any information released by DfE. Schools have been provided with access to resources to support children in schools. This includes the following support that is available for any child and can also be used to support Ukraine arrivals:

- Free Training to become a Trauma Informed and Attachment Aware Setting.
- Transport Assistance where eligible.
- Language support, through the WCF Learning Support Team.
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for post-16 and adult learning, community based with funding support.
- Early Help Offer.
- Access to Oak National Academy, which has rolled out an auto-translate function across all 10,000 of its online lessons.
- Uniform costs, if families are struggling to afford uniform, schools can support with costs.

28. In addition, the following resources are also available to support Ukraine arrivals with schools provided with access to resources to support children in schools:

- Free School Meals for all Ukraine arrivals.
- Ukraine Culture Briefing Sessions for schools.
- Support to access remote education during the pandemic has been extended to those Ukrainian pupils who need laptops.
- Access to Ukrainian learning materials and the Ukrainian curriculum, to compliment Ukrainian pupils' education.
- Ukrainian Educational Materials to support both pupils and families.
- Access to Twinkl, English/Ukrainian language resources.

Early Years

29. Government funds early education entitlements (free hours of childcare) for parents of young children:

30. All parents of 3 and 4-year-olds can access 15 free hours of childcare per week, regardless of their immigration status or whether they are working. Eligible working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds can access an additional 15 hours of childcare, known as the '30 Hours' entitlement. Disadvantaged 2-year-olds may be eligible to access 15 free hours of childcare.

31. Children arriving in the UK through the Ukraine Family Scheme or the Homes for Ukraine (sponsorship) Scheme will be able to access the Department for Education's free early education entitlements if they meet the existing eligibility criteria.

Wider Support

32. **Cultural awareness and education sessions** – The Council's Adult Learning Team are running sessions for Officers (Districts, County Council, wider partners inc. schools) and Sponsors on cultural awareness. These have been well received. Further sessions when scheduled will be able to be booked using this link - [Homes for Ukraine - Culture Briefing for Sponsors \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine-culture-briefing-for-sponsors)
For more information, contact Here2Help via www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help

33. The Council's Learning Services Team are currently in a process of developing a number of different activities for guests including English classes. All courses will be promoted on the Council's website here: [Adult Learning Courses \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/adult-learning-courses). As above, for more information, contact Here2Help.

34. **Accessing the NHS** - The health guide covers resources to help both Guests and Sponsors to make the most of the NHS services available in the county. The guide can be accessed online [Health Guide](#) and sponsors are being encouraged to use this guide to support guests. There is ongoing conversation around how to manage demand on services including mental health support.

35. **Bus Travel** – The County Council is issuing free bus passes to Ukraine Guests for their first three months of stay in Worcestershire.

36. **Opportunities to connect** – Events are being organised in local areas to bring together guests that have arrived. For example, a Connect Cafe was held at Kidderminster Library for Ukrainian families and their sponsors on Friday 27th May from 9:30 - 11:30. This was a chance to connect but also for guests to see what the children's sessions are like and whether it is something they'd like to come to again.

37. Information is being gathered of **local support**, in addition to the support given by the County Council and its partners, that may be available for when the Guests arrive. The already well established [Here2Help service](#) is being utilised to organise and link up those wishing to offer help (individuals and organisations/community groups etc) to those who may need help or advice. Communications have been published encouraging anyone who feels they are able to support in any way to go through Here2Help to register.

38. **Access to employment** - Ukraine claimants will receive the same support and access to provision as anyone else, and if eligible, they should be referred to relevant support to help them into work. There are currently quite a few employers who are sending through vacancies where they are welcoming applications from Ukraine (and Afghan) communities, and these are being shared with the local job centres. The Way to Work campaign is well under way and focussed on connecting claimants to employers and meeting demand in the labour market. Discussions are also taking place with local recruitment companies (e.g., Hewett Recruitment) who are keen to support Ukraine guests into employment.

39. **Re-matching and supporting sponsor / guest relationships** - Rematching is a new expectation for local authorities using the expression of interest information currently shared from central government. It is expected that re-matching will focus on those most in need and, therefore, only be used where it is unviable or unsafe for the sponsorship relationship to continue. Only those who received a visa through the Homes for Ukraine visa route are eligible for rematching, to ensure that those without family links in the UK are prioritised. Rematching should only take place if one of the following applies:

- a. When the local authority determines it is genuinely not viable or safe for the Ukrainian guest(s) to stay where they are.
- b. Because of failed DBS or accommodation checks.

40. Councils should keep rematches to a minimum, to limit instability for guests and ensure rematching is prioritised for the most pressing situations. If a local authority has a request for a rematch from Ukrainian guests, but does not deem it justified, it is reasonable to turn this down or prioritise cases deemed more pressing. Local authorities are expected to use their judgement in determining whether there has been an irreparable breakdown in sponsorship. Where the Ukrainian guests include children who are already enrolled in school or college, local authorities should prioritise rematches that are as local as possible to the education setting, to ensure continuity of education. Children **must not** be rematched separately to the Ukrainian adult(s) in the existing sponsorship relationship. Within a household with multiple Ukrainian adults, you will be able to rematch part of the adult household if appropriate (i.e., in a Ukrainian household with just two adults, you could rematch just one adult, with the other adult remaining with the existing host, if appropriate). Work continues within Worcestershire to identify solutions for meeting this additional expectation.

Purpose of the Meeting

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

- Consider the update and determine whether it would wish to carry out any further scrutiny and
- Agree whether it would wish to make any comments to the Cabinet Members.

Contact Point

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

Background Papers

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

Agenda and Minutes of Cabinet - 24 March 2022.

Agenda and Minutes for the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board - 26 April 2022.

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

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 7 JULY 2022

PERFORMANCE AND 2021/22 YEAR END BUDGET MONITORING

Summary

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

Performance Information

3. Performance and financial information provide a further tool for the Scrutiny Panels in maintaining Members' understanding of services provided to the public, the effectiveness of current policies, and early knowledge of any issues or areas for further scrutiny.
4. Attached at Appendix 1 is a dashboard of performance information which covers the indicators from the Directorate level scorecard which relate to services relevant to this Scrutiny Panel's remit for Quarter 4 (January – March 2022).
5. The Corporate Balanced Scorecard is the means of understanding progress against the Council's Corporate Plan. The Scorecard contains a range of indicators linked to key priorities and themes.
6. The Children's Services corporate scorecard is under review and will be re-launched as part of the new Corporate Strategy.
7. Historical Corporate Balanced Scorecard information for each Directorate is reported to Cabinet and is available on the Council's website [here](#)

Financial Information

8. The Panel also receives in-year budget information. The information provided is for Quarter 4 2021/22 year end and is attached in the form of presentation slides at Appendix 2. Further detail on the year-end budget information which was presented to Cabinet on 1 July 2022 can be found at [Agenda for Cabinet 1st July 2022](#)

Purpose of the Meeting

9. 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 the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board at its meeting on 20 July 2022
- whether any further information or scrutiny on a particular topic is required.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Dashboard of Performance Information

Appendix 2 – Budget Monitoring Information Quarter 4 2021/22 year end

Contact Points

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Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

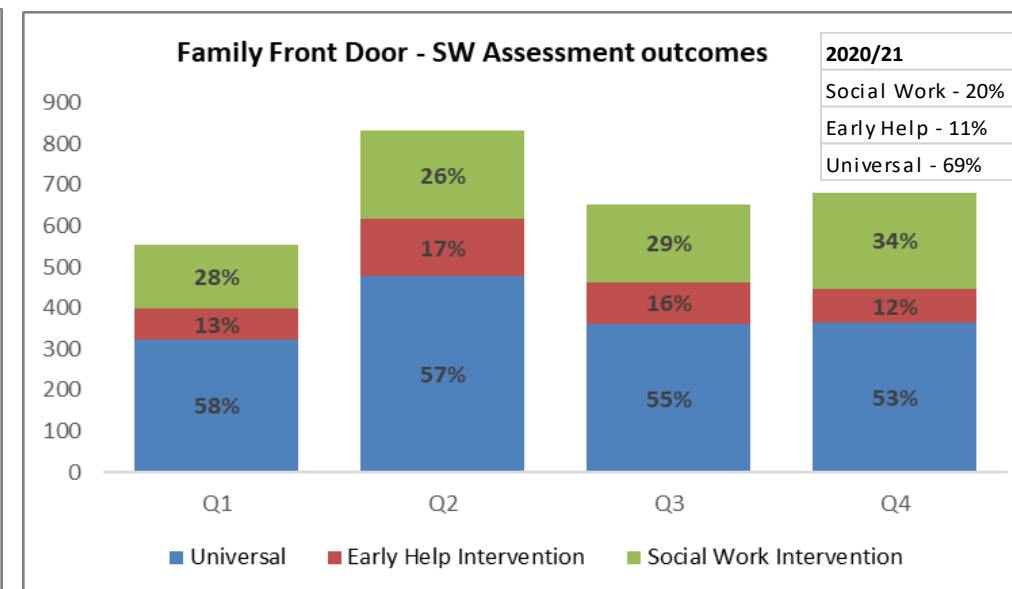
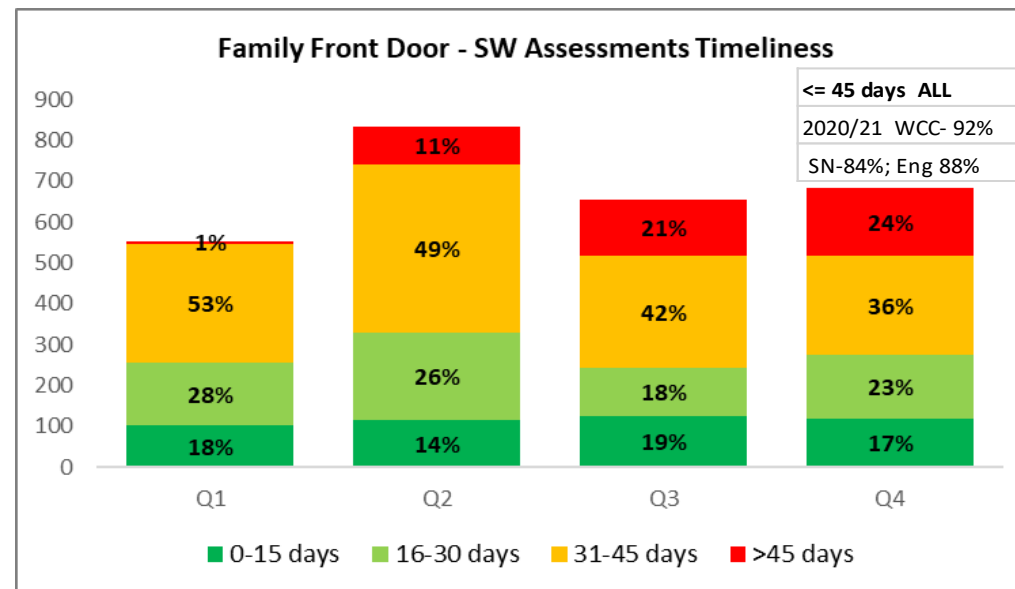
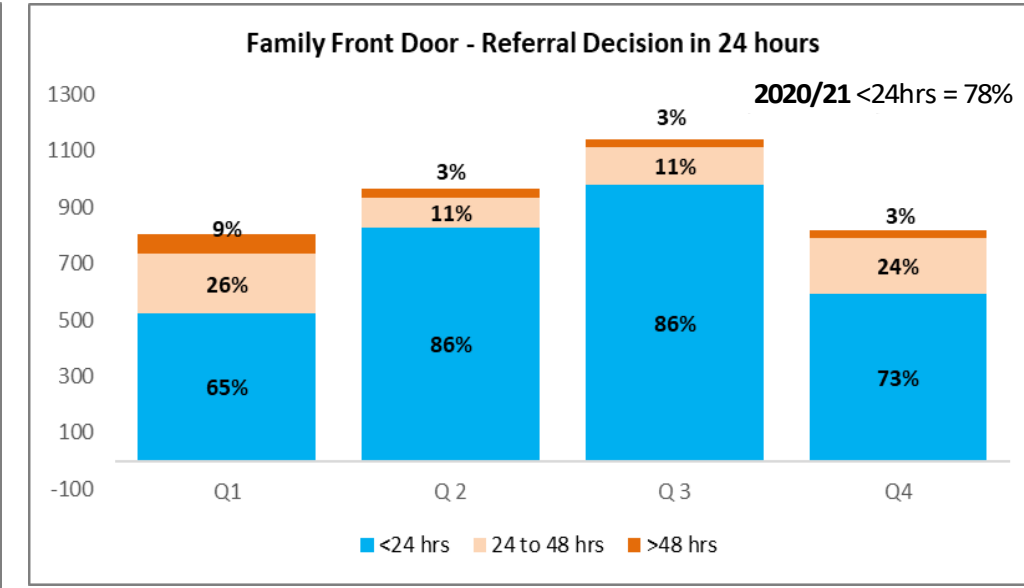
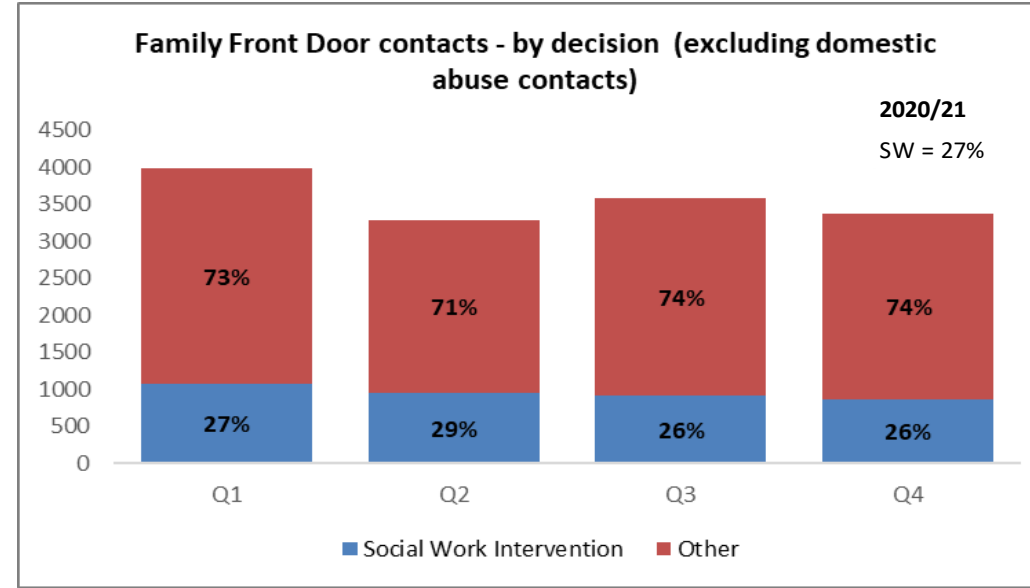
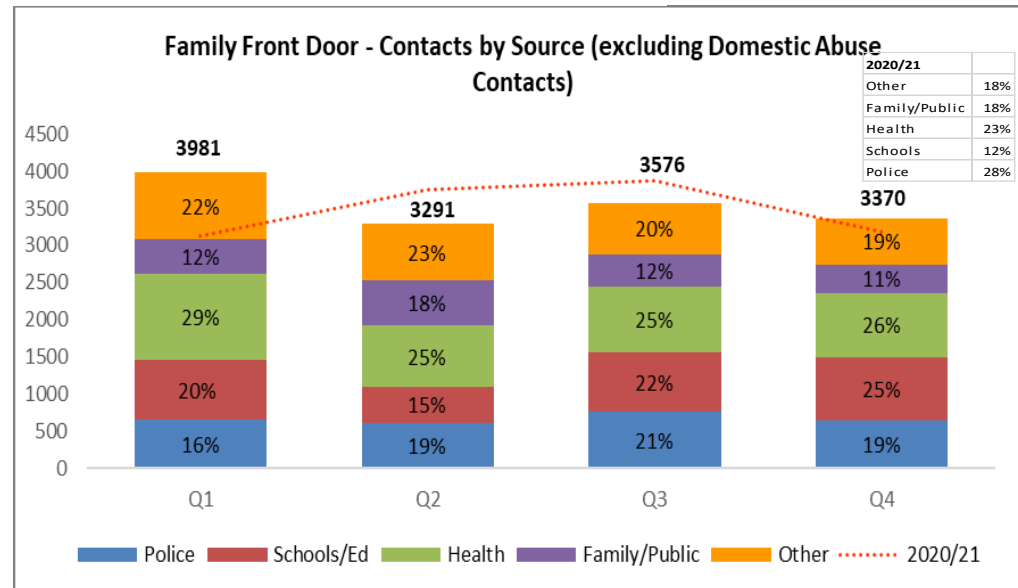
Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) 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 22 July, 23 September and 19 November 2020 and 3 February, 21 July 2021 and 23 March 2022
- Agendas and minutes of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 29 January, 16 July, 22 September and 12 November 2021, 17 July, 8 September, 13 November and 10 March 2022

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

Family Front Door



Contacts and Referrals

Throughout 20/21 we have seen the rise in contacts consistent with the picture seen regionally and nationally. They are stabilising but only to post COVID levels so demand remains high : on average we have seen over 4400 additional contacts this year.

Given the substantial rise in contacts received the timeliness of decision making in 24 hours being maintained at 80% average is a sustained improvement on 78% through 20/21 and 72% through 19/20 However conversion rates from "contact" to "referral" (social work assessment) remain a concern and we continue to work with partners to understand the accessibility and effectiveness of Early Help

Social Work Assessments (SWA)

FFD have undertaken 2,857 social work assessments during 21/22 and closed 2,722. This level of demand is returning to pre covid 19/20 figures following a substantial rise on 20/21 which saw an additional 600 SWA received and 400 closed in year.

The management of workflow by staff and managers over this high demand 2 year period has been exceptional. Timeliness of SWA has therefore remained a strength with a year average of 14% completed after 45 days and importantly a range of completion timeliness seen reflecting proportionate assessments and WCF timeliness being in line with all the "good" LA's in our region.

WCF repeat assessments are also a positive KPI at an average in year of 20% compared to a west mids average of 21% and Eng. average of 23%

Actions taken:

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) study into accessibility and effectiveness of Early Help

WCC/WCF continued development of the virtual Family Hub

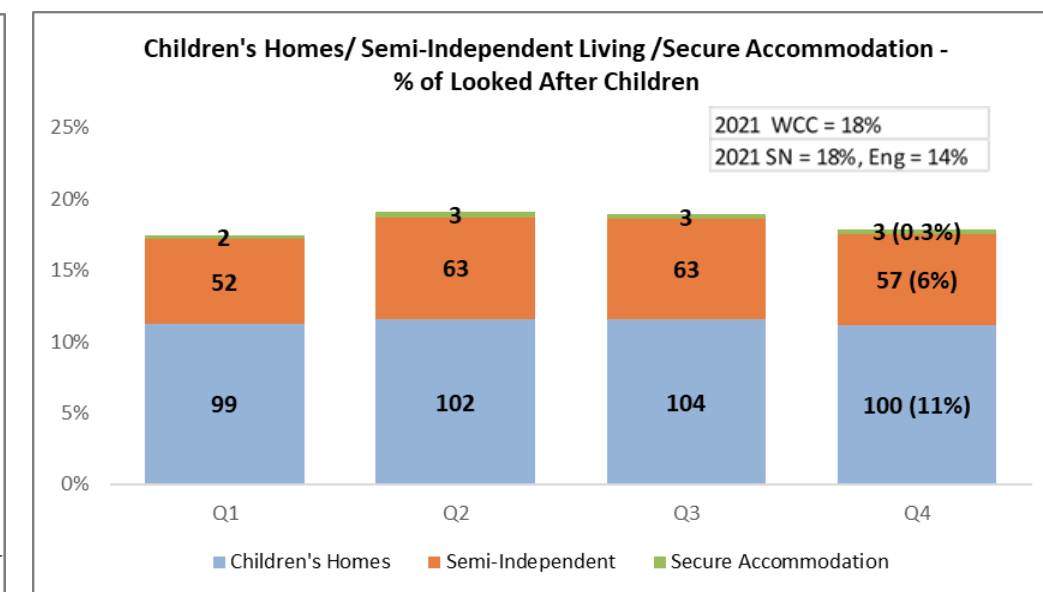
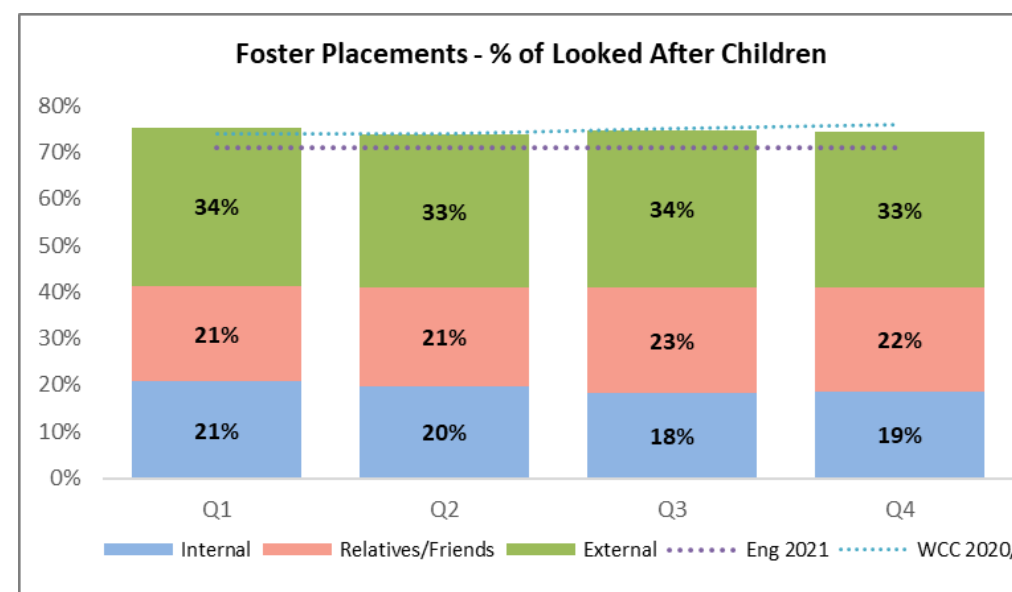
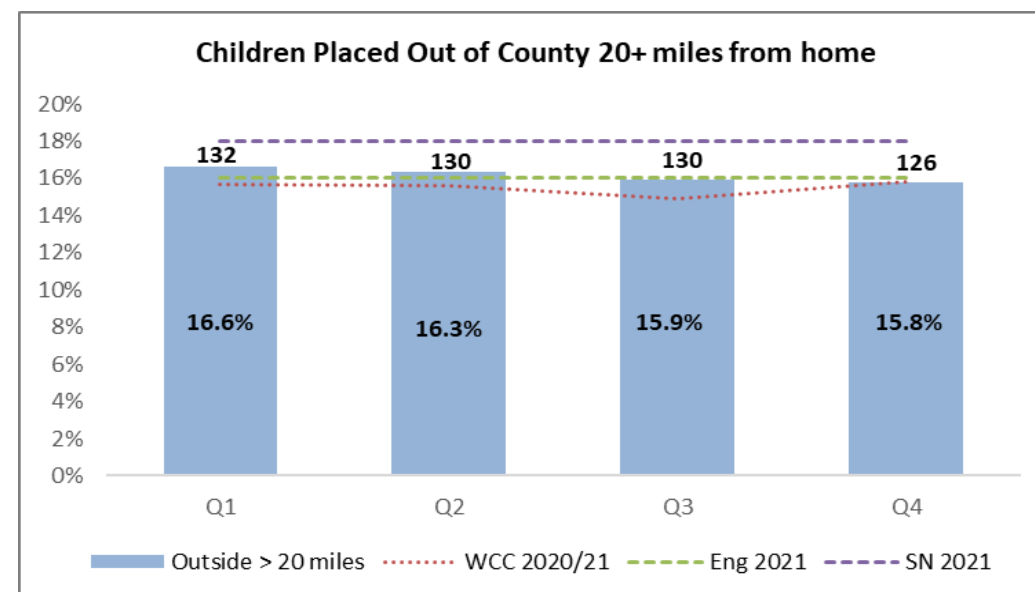
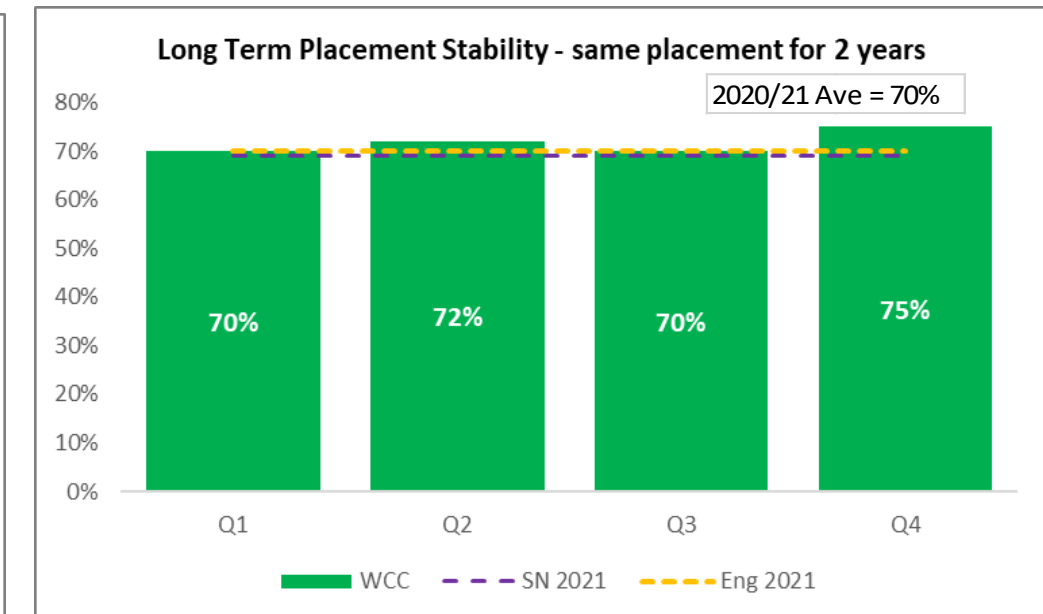
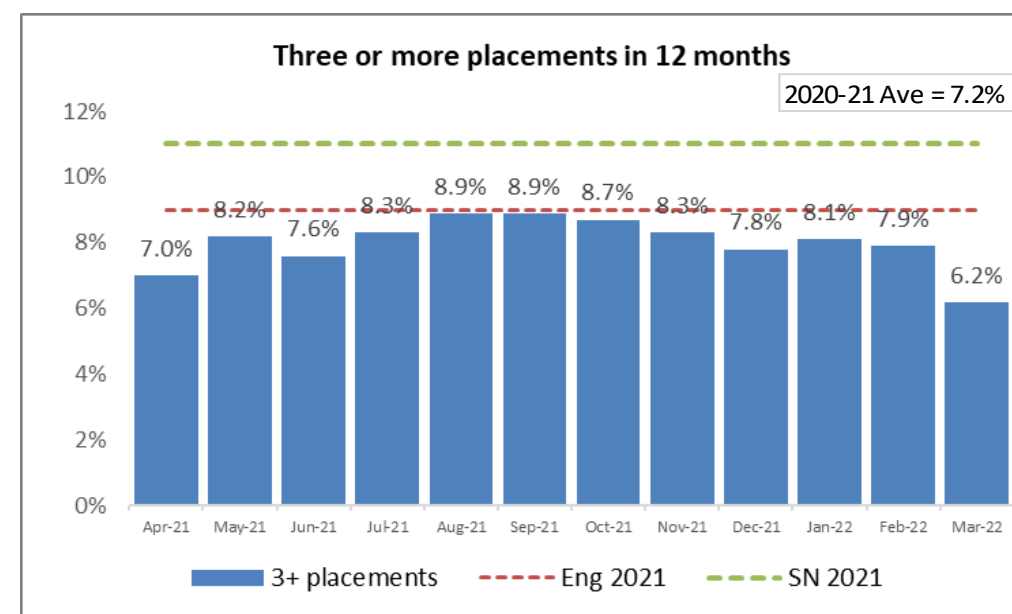
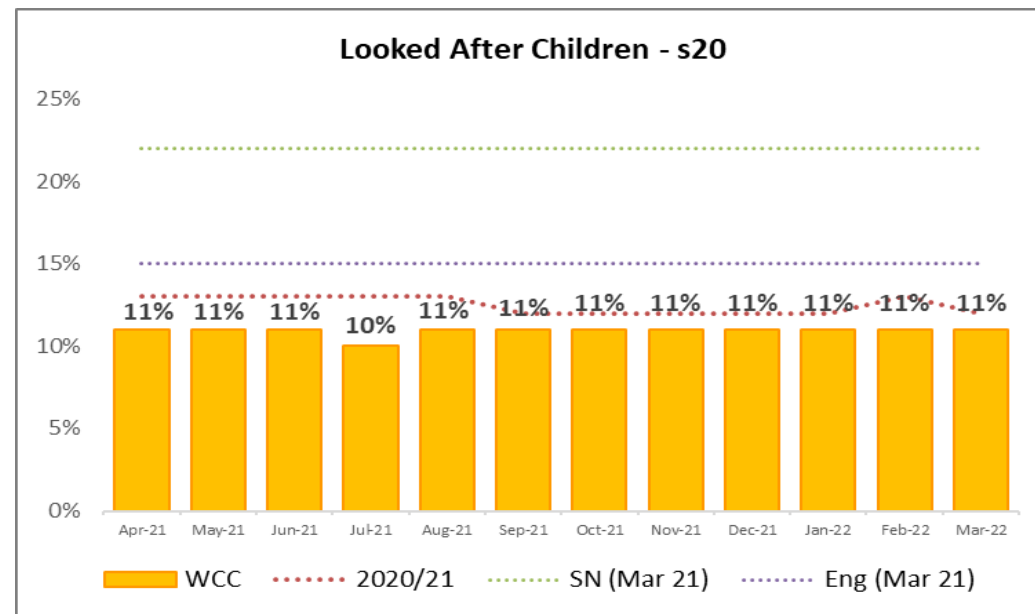
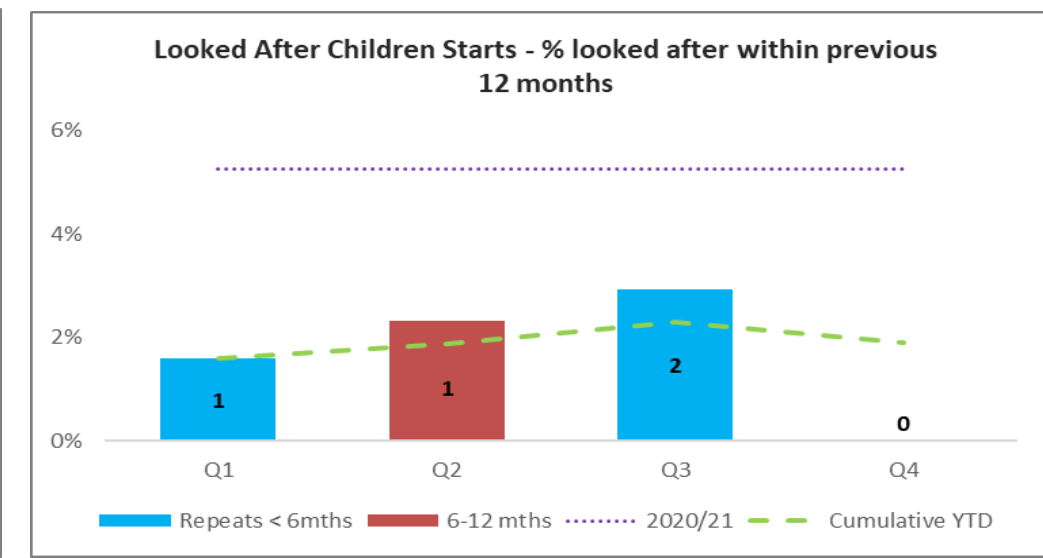
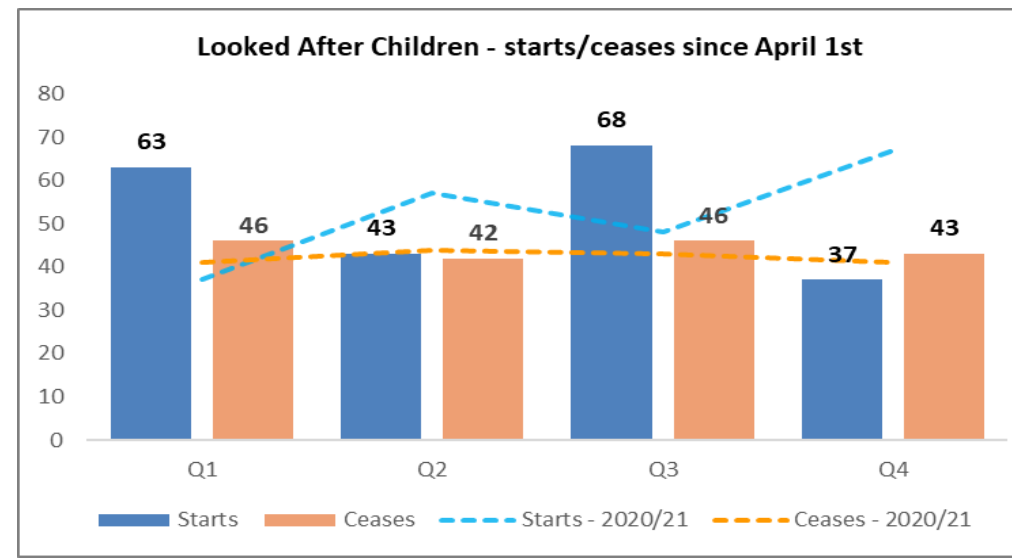
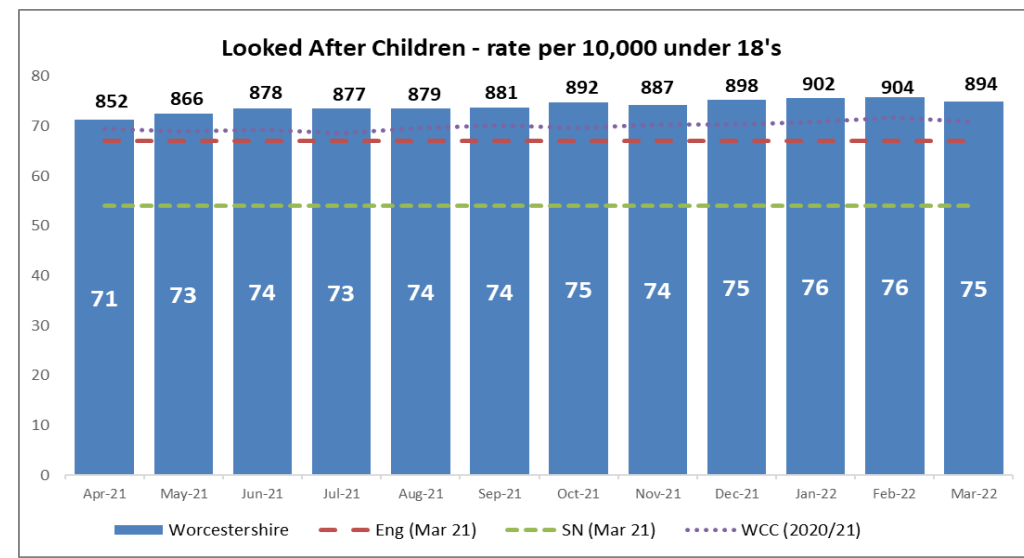
Early Help Partnership programme by districts to promote awareness and understanding of the Early Help offer in schools and communities

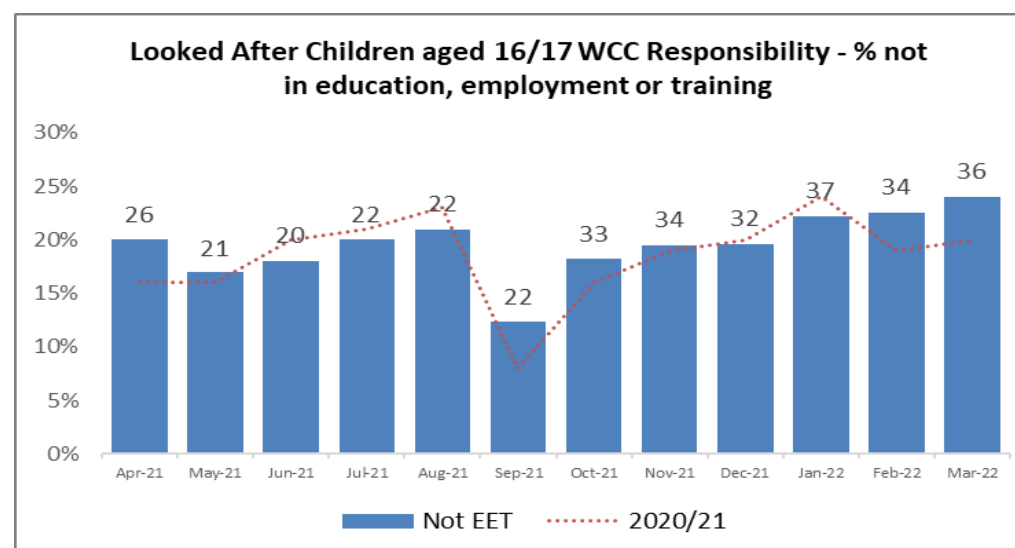
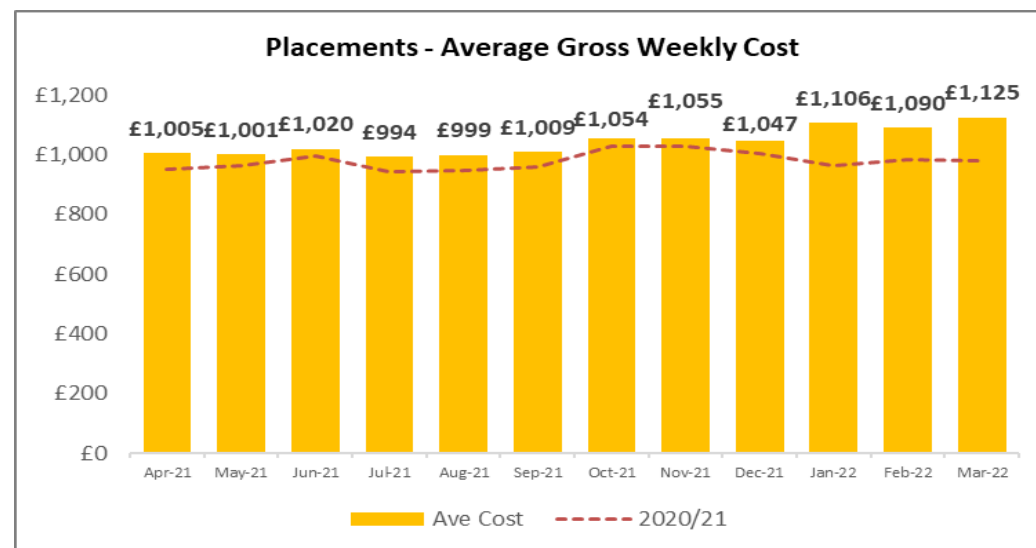
WCF/Health programme of support and information to schools family support officers

WCF escalation to WSCP and Strategic Problem solving workshop supporting operational audit activity

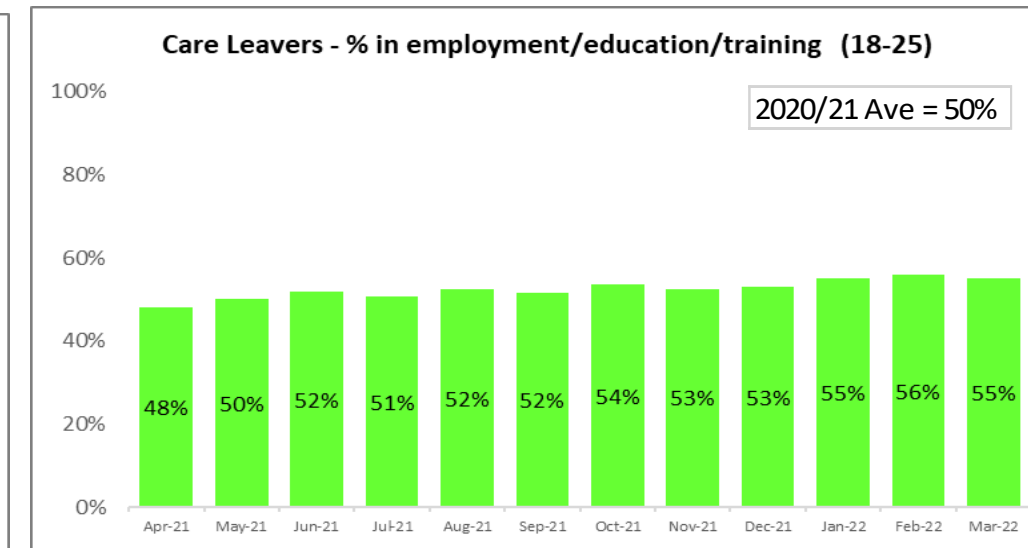


Through Care - Looked After Children and Care Leavers





No comparator data is available for this indicator



Care Leavers 19-21 in Employment, Education or Training as at 31 Mar 2022: **58%**. Latest comparative figure for age 19-21 using national annual snapshot methodology (2020/21) - Statistical Neighbours: **50%**, England: **52%**

Our looked after children total numbers have risen through the year and we remain above statistical neighbours and England averages.

However, for new entries into care we have lower rates with 17 per 10k children during 21/22 compared to West Mids. average of 21 and England 27 and for two consecutive years we have been in the lowest two LA's in the region for new accommodations reflecting our successful care prevention work in that period.

For children leaving care we have had lower rates for the last 2 years, a reflection of care prevention where only those children who really need to be in the care system are accommodated and as such Covid impact on permanency planning was significant in the years 20/21 and 21/22 which results in WCF maintaining a higher number of children in care than forecast.

However quarter 4 21/22 shows us getting back on track with more children leaving than entering our care that we saw qtr. 4 of 19/20 (pre covid)

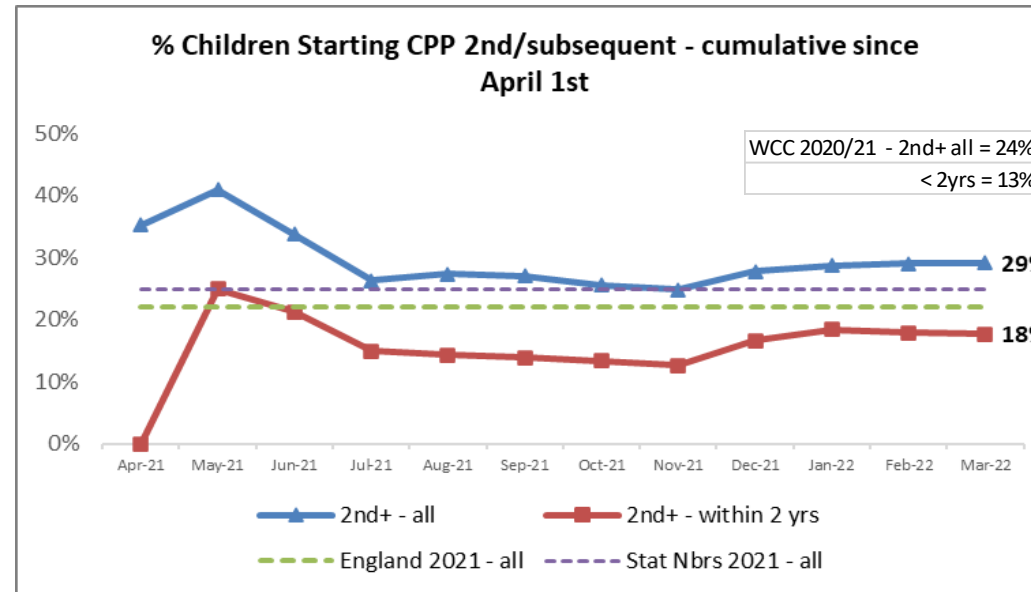
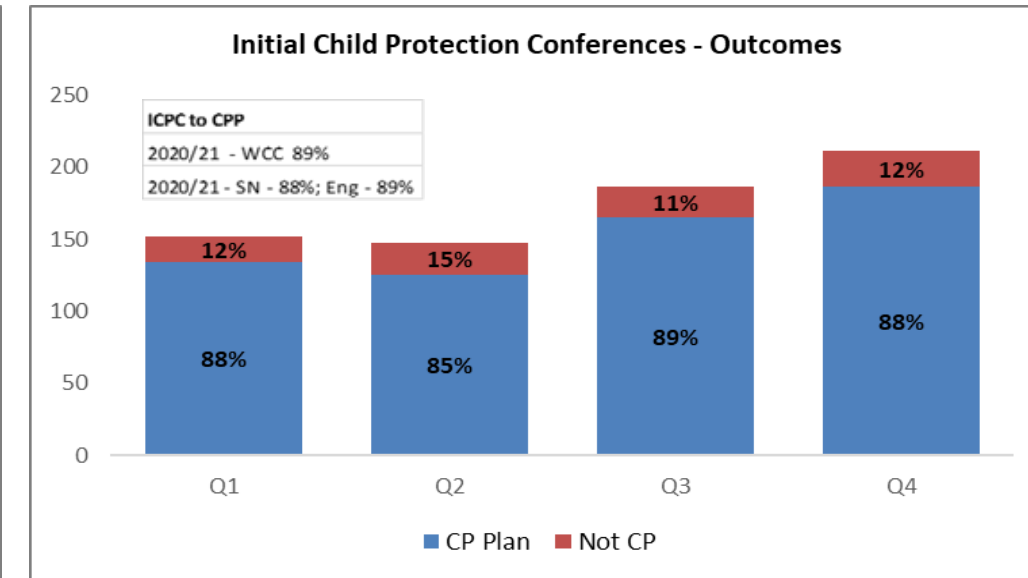
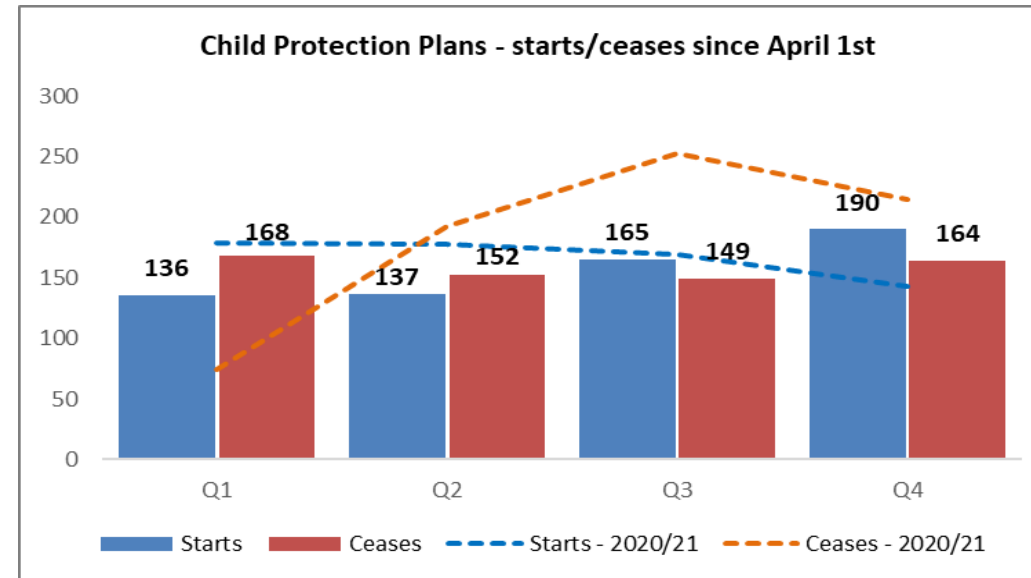
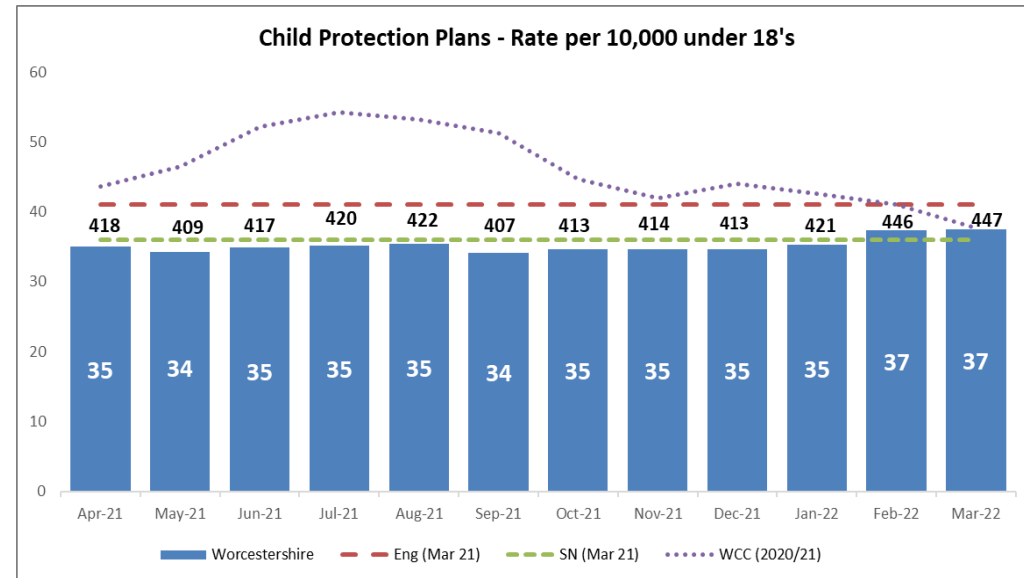
Key Performance Indicators for Looked After Children and Care Leavers continues to be positive for :

- Low level of Children in Care under S20 at 11% - Consistently low now for three years - historically at 36%
- Long term placement stability with 75% of children in placement for 2yrs or more, well above England/Statistical Neighbours (SN)
- Short term stability with only 6% of children experiencing 3 or more placement moves in 12 months, well below SN/England
- Care Leavers in touch at 93% above SN/England
- Care Leavers in suitable accommodation at 94% above England/SN
- The % of children placed out of county below SN/England
- Timeliness of Looked After Child Reviews and 70% attendance and 98% participation by children and young people at their reviews.
- Up to date Care/Pathway and Personal Education Plans all at 99%
- We also have only 4 children with repeat care episode in year and we are monitoring 100 children in our "sustainability cohort" to monitor the long term outcomes of our care prevention work

Whilst we have above England averages for children in Foster Care we have reduced the number in internal mainstream Foster Care and this is an area we are looking to increase

Though we have higher rates of Care Leavers who are in Employment/Education or Training at 58% compared to England 52% and SN at 50% this is another area we are focused on improving targeting our most hard to engage Care Leavers developing Kick Start/Apprenticeships and other training and work related opportunities.

Child Protection



Child Protection numbers throughout 2021 have remained relatively stable putting us in line with statistical neighbours and below England averages.

The rate of new and ceases throughout each quarter is consistent which identifies consistency in threshold decision making

This 21/22 data is a year on year reduction in CP numbers through 2018/19 (at our peak post inadequate judgement) and through 19/20. 20/21 is a reflection of the work in service to promote a strength based model, manage risk and support families to prevent risk and need that reach a threshold for "significant harm".

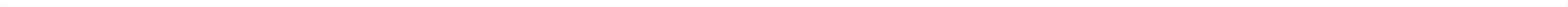
Parental substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health are the three key areas of concern leading to Child Protection plans for children. This is the focus of our work in Family Safeguarding, working with adult parents through our multi-disciplinary approach

Timeliness and quality of Initial and Review Child Protection conferences timescales are a strength, with 99% of all review and 95% of all initial conferences in time, both are sustained and improved practice from the previous years.

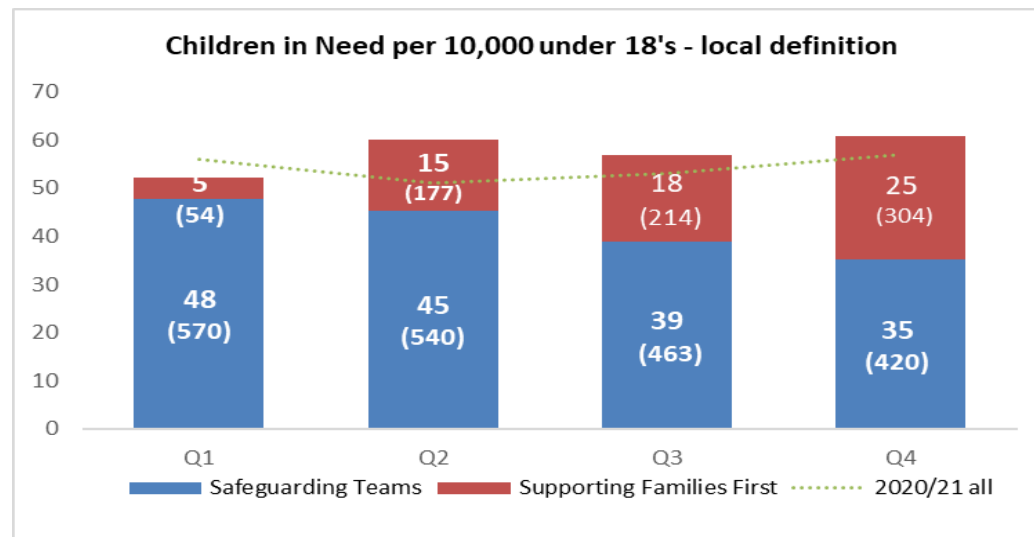
We have seen a positive 9-16 % of children attending their own conference through the year and participation by other methods means we consistently hear the expressed voice of those aged 12+ in conferences.

At 18% of children subject to a repeat plan within 2 years we are below England and Statutory Neighbours and whilst this is a rise from 13% last year, we know that the impact of the pandemic did push some families back into high risk areas and it was appropriate therefore the child protection plans were resumed in some cases.

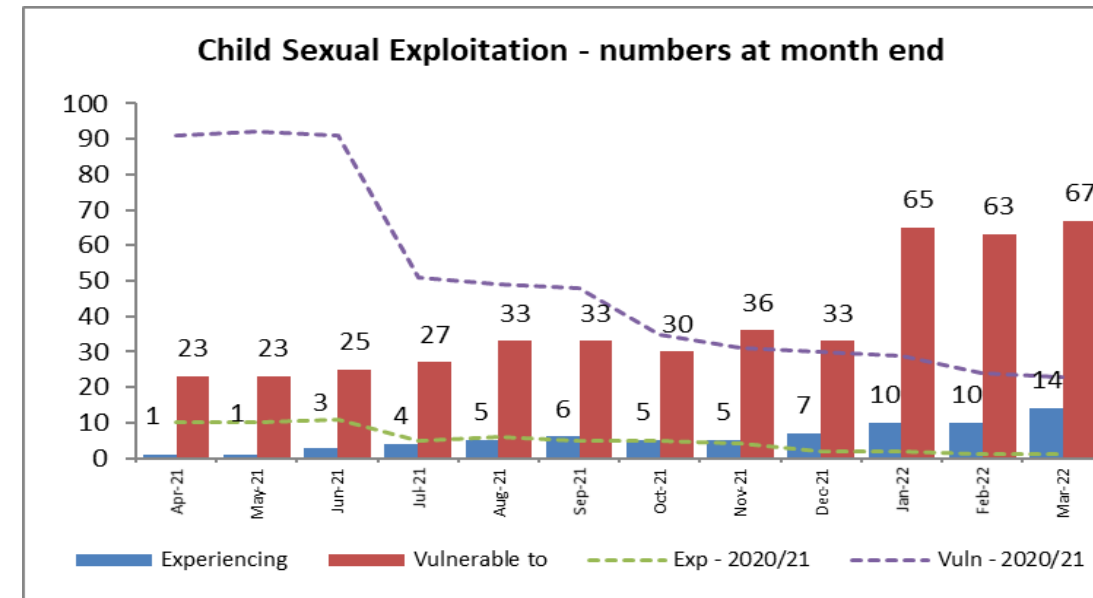
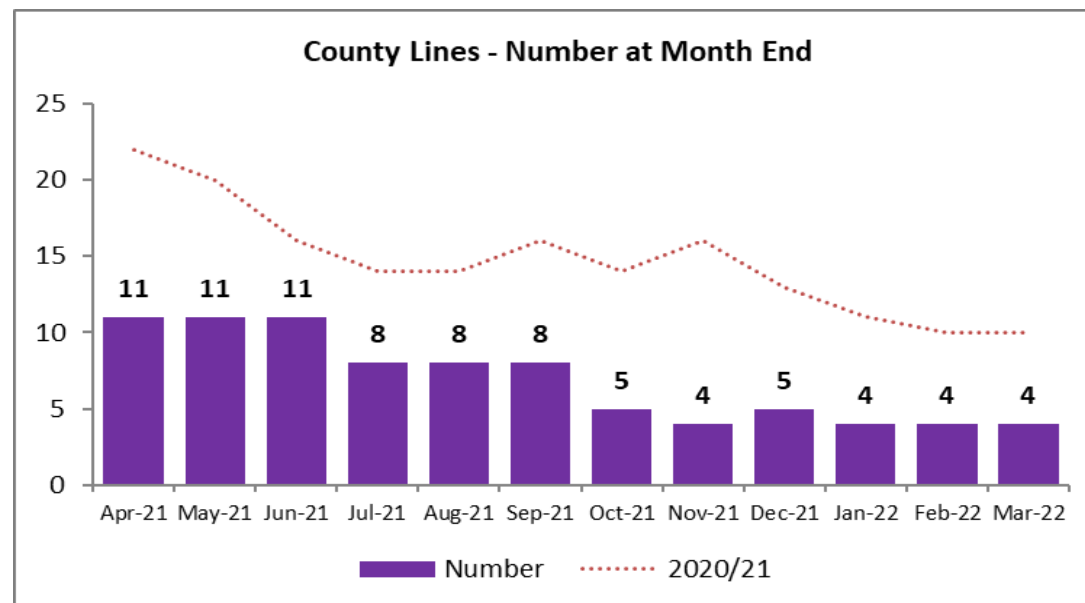
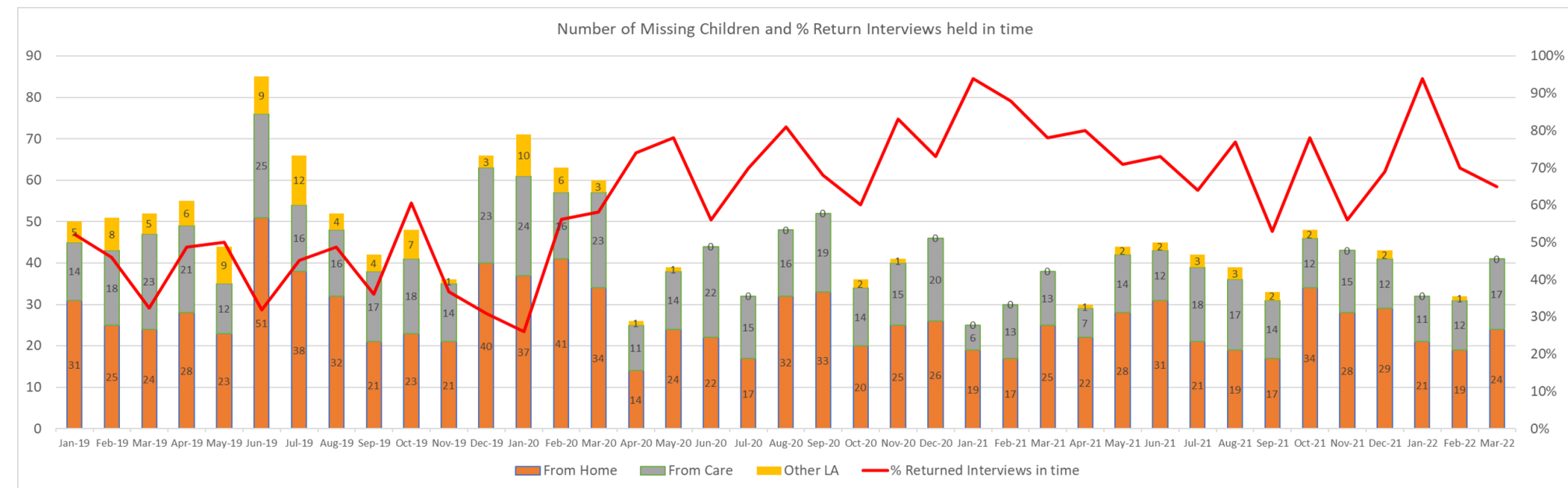
We have undertaken two significant audits in year to ensure that we are learning lessons in respect of "professional overoptimism" and "professional curiosity" informing appropriate decision making



Children In Need



Child in Need Census (wide definition) - rate per 10,000 at 31 March 2021 - WCC= 269; Statistical Neighbours = 283; England = 321

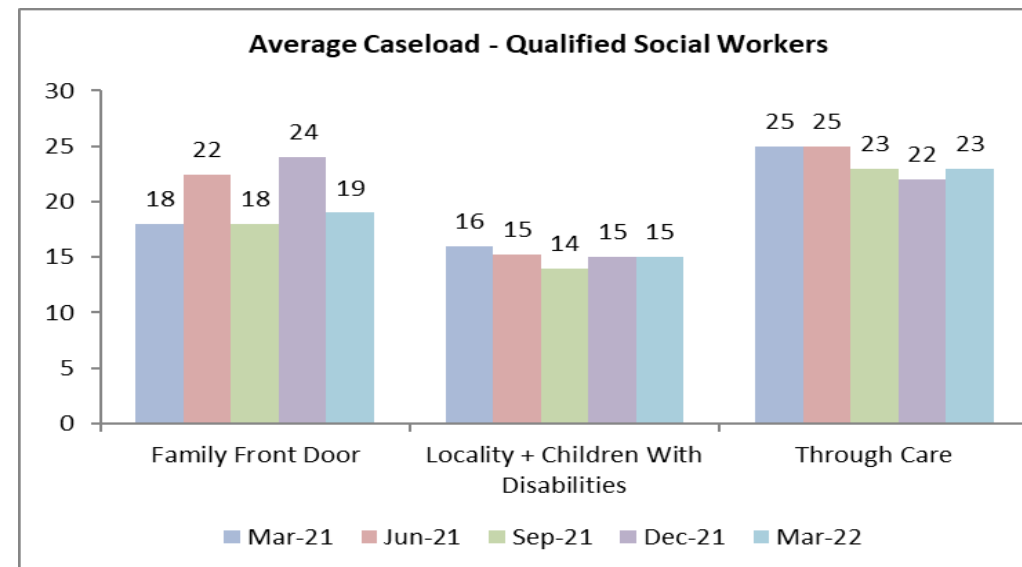
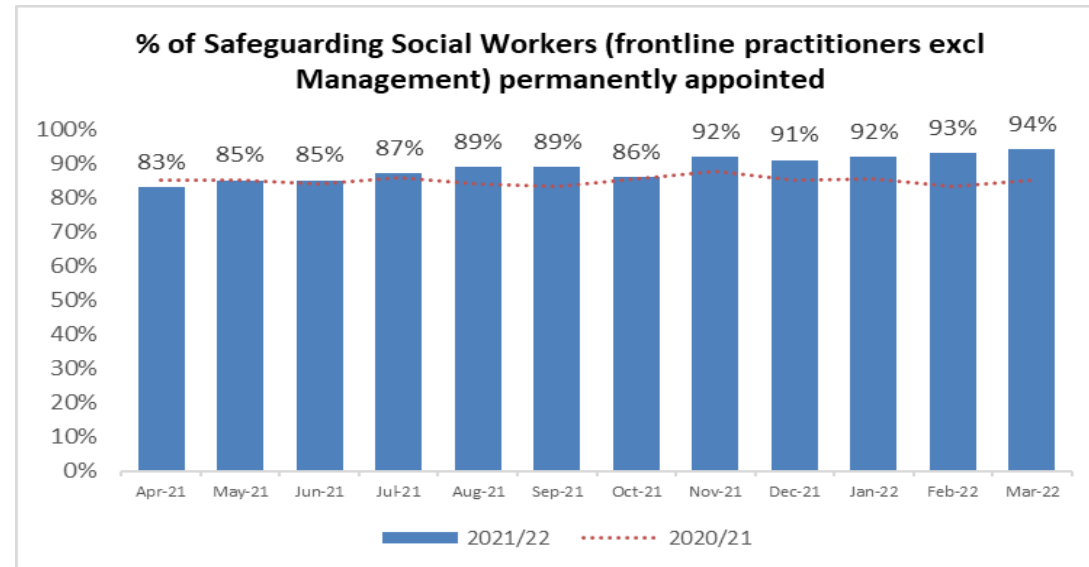


We now work in a multi disciplinary approach through SFF with our Children in Need, not just our "edge of care" We can see SFF outcomes in qtr.3-4 with only 4 % becoming looked after children, 22% escalated to Child Protection and 73% were successfully closed.

Welfare Return Interviews throughout 2021 averaged 73% in timescales compared to 61% in 2020 and 43% in 2019 when we first introduced the WCF children's missing officers. The well-established work of the Childrens Missing Officers demonstrates an ongoing reduction in repeat episodes of children going missing, as they can engage young people and have these focused conversations positively.

Analysis of our Looked After young people who are repeat missing, identifies a combination of some young people being criminally exploited and at high risk, some going missing to see a boyfriend/girlfriend/ and contact with family member and some residential settings reporting a high risk young person missing due to late return. The WRI information is shared weekly with partners through the GET SAFE portal and in the GET SAFE meetings so any new wider concerns are swiftly identified, adding additional context and understanding to the child's assessment and or plan.

Staffing



We have retained a stable and permanent workforce this year. Our overall Social Work permanent staffing is at 94% of positions permanently filled from 83% (April 21) and 99% of our management structure being permanent. Our reliance on agency workers is reducing from 24% down to 16% in all front line safeguarding social worker posts giving stability to children and families. This is a significant achievement and not reflective of the extreme staffing turn over and agency reliance seen across the regional and nationally.

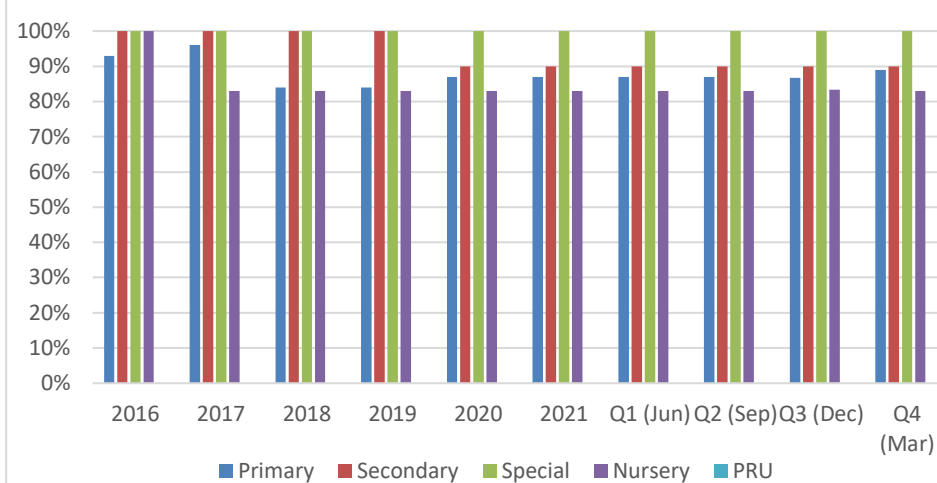
WCF seek to be an employer of choice and management support, supervision and case loads are key to this.

Supervision is maintained as a priority with a 93% average over the and we have positive reports in our staff health check: 84% of staff said they get the support and reflective supervision required to manage the emotional demands of work, 84% of staff said they felt listened to and had their worries/concerns dealt with.

However case loads have fluctuated due to demand and availability of quality agency staff to fill sickness/maternity leave and at the time of the survey (Dec 21) only 65% of staff felt their workload was manageable

As caseloads increased during periods of the year especially at the front door and in Looked After Children's Teams we took actions through additional capacity, roles shared and a backlog project initiated in timely response to what our data monitoring was telling us. This enables us to ensure workers felt "management" were aware and taking effective action to support.

Ofsted Performance % Good or Outstanding

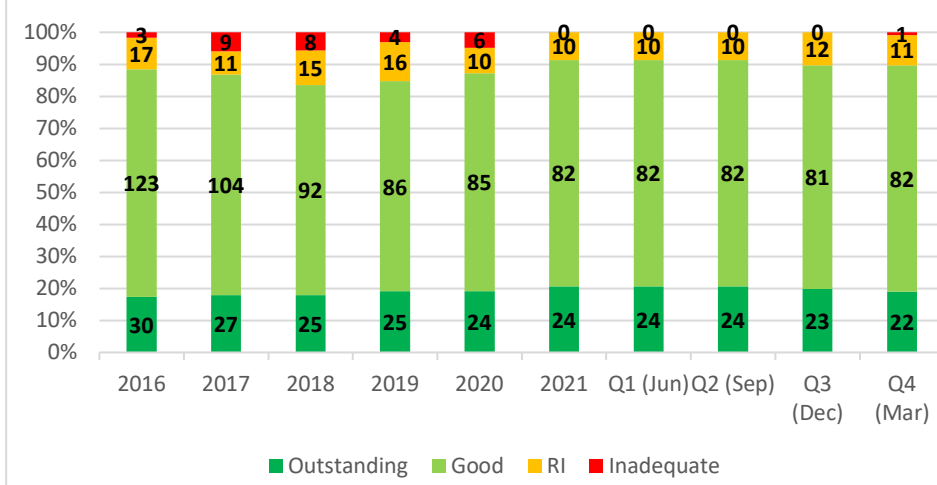


Ofsted Performance - % Good or Outstanding - All Schools by phase

As at end of Academic Year unless stated

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)	Q3 (Dec)	Q4 (Mar)
Primary	89%	88%	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%	81%	81%
Secondary	93%	96%	84%	84%	87%	87%	87%	87%	87%	89%
Special	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Nursery	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
PRU	100%	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%
All Wors. England	90%	90%	86%	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	82%	83%
England	89%	89%	84%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%	87%	87%

Ofsted Performance - LA Maintained Schools



Ofsted grades - LA Maintained Schools

As at end of Academic Year unless stated

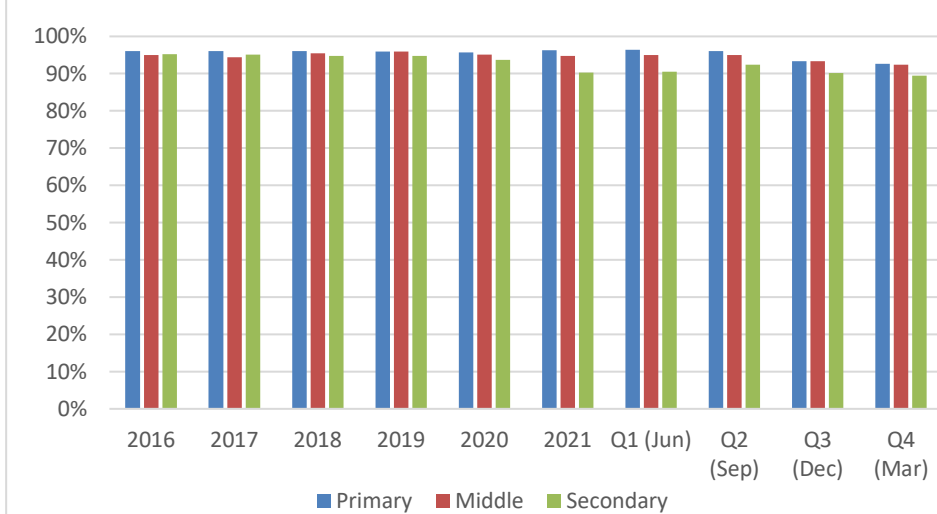
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)	Q3 (Dec)	Q4 (Mar)
Outstanding	30	27	25	25	24	24	24	24	23	22
Good	123	104	92	86	85	82	82	82	81	82
RI	17	11	15	16	10	10	10	10	12	11
Inadequate	3	9	8	4	6	0	0	0	0	1
Total	173	151	140	131	125	116	116	116	116	116
% O & G	88.4%	86.8%	83.6%	84.7%	87.2%	91.4%	91.4%	91.4%	89.7%	89.7%

Ofsted - Free Schools and Academies

As at end of Academic Year unless stated

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)	Q3 (Dec)	Q4 (Mar)
Outstanding	17	21	22	20	17	17	17	17	17	17
Good	43	62	66	73	77	79	79	79	79	81
RI	2	2	6	8	10	10	10	10	11	10
Inadequate	1	2	9	11	14	20	20	20	20	19
No Ofsted Judgement	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	63	87	103	112	119	127	127	127	128	128
% O & G	95.2%	95.4%	85.4%	83.0%	79.0%	75.6%	75.6%	75.6%	75.0%	76.6%

School Attendance



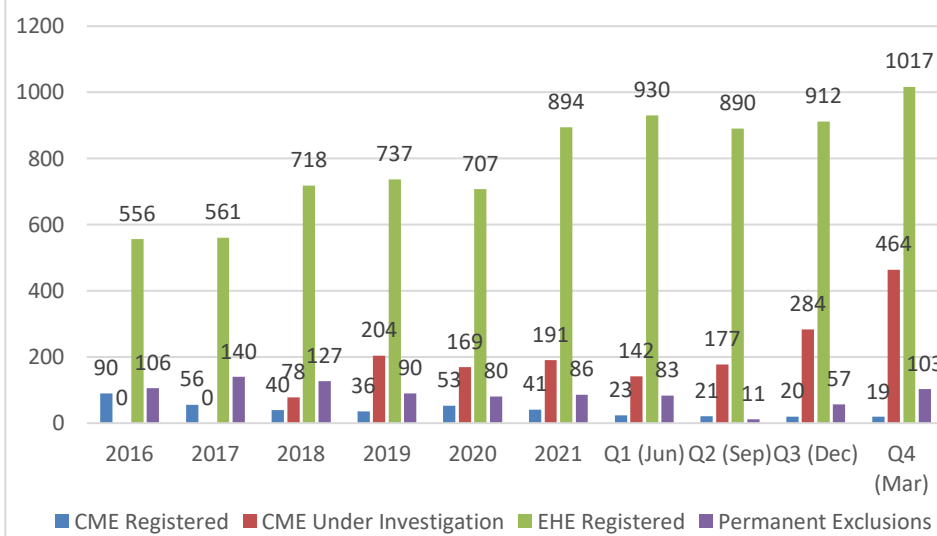
School Attendance

As at end of Academic Year unless stated

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)	Q3 (Dec)	Q4 (Mar)
Primary	96.1%	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%	95.7%	96.3%	96.4%	96.0%	93.4%	92.6%
Middle	95.0%	94.4%	95.5%	96.0%	95.1%	94.8%	95.0%	95.0%	93.3%	92.4%
Secondary	95.2%	95.1%	94.7%	94.7%	93.7%	90.3%	90.5%	92.4%	90.2%	89.5%
PRU	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	65.4%	79.2%	73.0%	68.3%	68.4%
Special Schools	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	80.3%	79.9%	79.0%	84.2%	82.6%

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

Missing Education

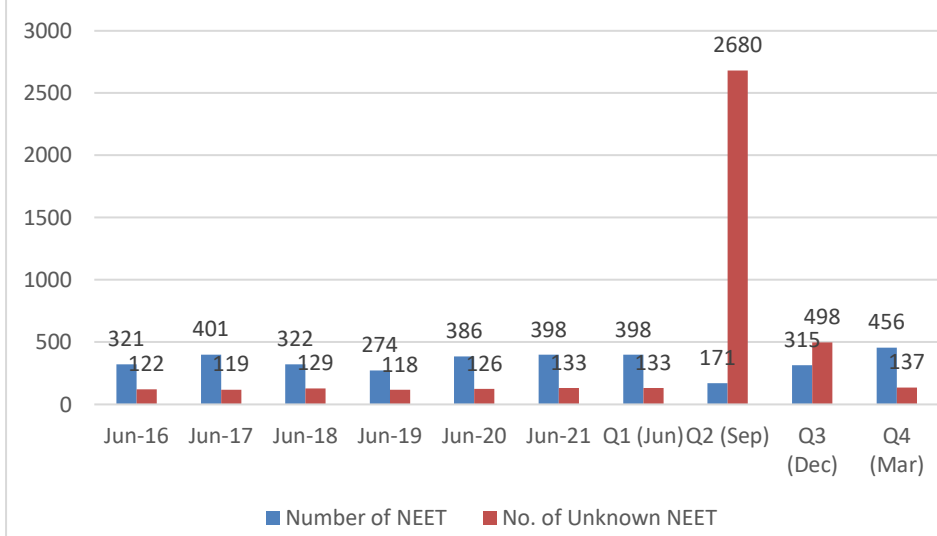


Missing Education

As at end of Academic Year unless stated

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)	Q3 (Dec)	Q4 (Mar)
CME Under Investigation	n/a	n/a	78	204	169	191	142	177	284	464
CME Registered	90	56	40	36	53	41	23	21	20	19
CME Regd & Closed	n/a	n/a	116	134	158	123	108	43	39	7
EHE Registered	556	561	718	737	707	894	930	890	912	1017
Permanent Exclusions	106	140	127	90	80	86	83	11	57	103

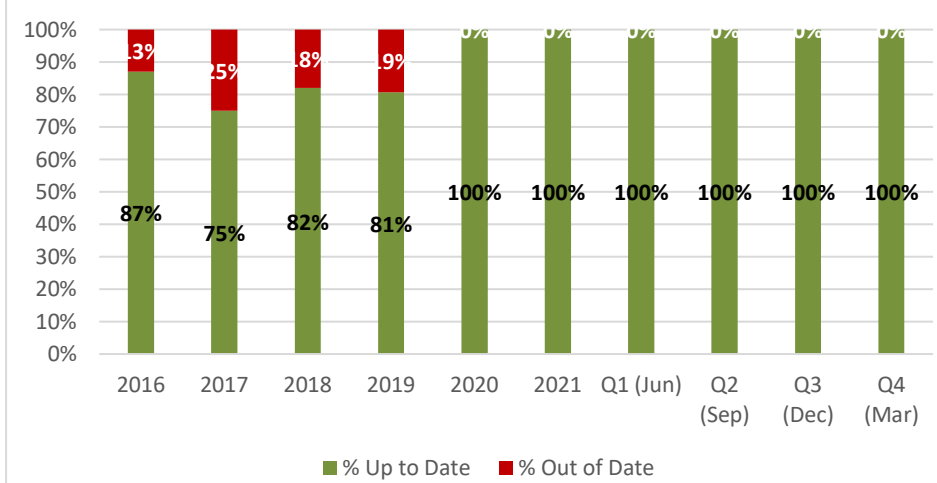
Not in Education, Employment or Training



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

	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-18	Jun-19	Jun-20	Jun-21	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)	Q3 (Dec)	Q4 (Mar)
Number of NEET	321	401	322	274	386	398	398	171	315	456
No. of Unknown NEET	122	119	129	118	126	133	133	2680	498	137

% CLA with an up to date Personal Education Plan



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

As at end of Academic Year unless stated

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)	Q3 (Dec)	Q4 (Mar)
% Up to Date	87%	75%	82%	81%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
% Out of Date	13%	25%	18%	19%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Commentary **Ofsted Performance**

As expected, routine Ofsted inspections recommenced from September 2021.

Since September there have been thirty eight published inspection reports. Two schools have improved in their Ofsted judgement to 'Good', one from 'Inadequate' upon conversion, one from 'Requires Improvement'. One school has improved from 'Good' to 'Outstanding', two schools have improved to 'Good'. Twenty five schools retained a 'Good' judgement. Two schools retained a 'Requires Improvement' judgement. Three schools declined from 'Good' or 'Outstanding' to 'Requires Improvement'. One school declined from 'Outstanding' to 'Good' and two schools declined from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Inadequate'. In addition there has been a monitoring visit of a 'Requires Improvement' school where it was judged as taking effective action.

Of the thirty eight inspections, twenty five were of primary/first schools, three were of special schools, eight were of secondary schools and two were of PRU's. 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 improvement action plan.

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, twenty eight referred to SEND provision. Twenty five of these references described positive SEND practice with three identifying SEND practice as an area requiring development. Each of these three schools are working proactively with the School Improvement Team to 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. The Q1 2021 figures initially suggested a return to pre-pandemic figures for Primary and close to pre-pandemic figures for Middle but Secondary figures continued to be affected especially by Yr 11 and Yr 13 students attendance once grading had been completed. In Q2 all phases attendance continued to be affected by the pandemic with Secondary figures showing a large drop in attendance at the start of the academic year. This decrease continued throughout Q3 and Q4 with all phases being affected not only by absences due to Covid illness but wider mental health/anxiety issues in both students and families*. 50 of our mainstream schools have less than 93% attendance and 14 of our Special Schools and PRU's have less than 90% attendance. 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**

During Q4 snapshot a total of 490 children/YP were CME: 464 were supported by a caseworker either 'under investigation' to establish whereabouts and circumstances, with 26 'registered' or 'registered and closed' as CME. There has been a significant increase in the reported numbers of CME in comparison to previous quarters, and previous years, with Q4 illustrating the highest number of CMEs recorded in Worcestershire. CME cases are more complex in nature, post covid, with children/YP and families requiring enhanced CME officer support to become ready to begin to return to the school environment. Schools, partners, external agencies and the public are encouraged to use centralised reporting mechanisms to provide details for the LA to identify, track, monitor and support CME. The Missing Mondays multi agency forum continues to meet weekly to strategically support the most complex CME cases and collectively secure the best outcomes for each vulnerable learner to lessen their days lost from education.

Elective Home Education (EHE)

The number of EHE pupils in Worcestershire continues to rise with 1017 children and young people registered as EHE at Q4. 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.

Exclusions

The number of permanent exclusions across Worcestershire has continued to rise with 103 at the end of Q4. Being . 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

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

Pre-Covid, NEET figures had been falling year on year through 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 is considered to be impacted by disengagement of young people and provision during periods of lockdown and isolation and mental health issues exacerbated by the impact of the pandemic. 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 yp 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. Notification of status has not been impacted by

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. The VS quality assures various aspects of the PEP process and content.

Post 16 Personal Progression Plans (PPPs)

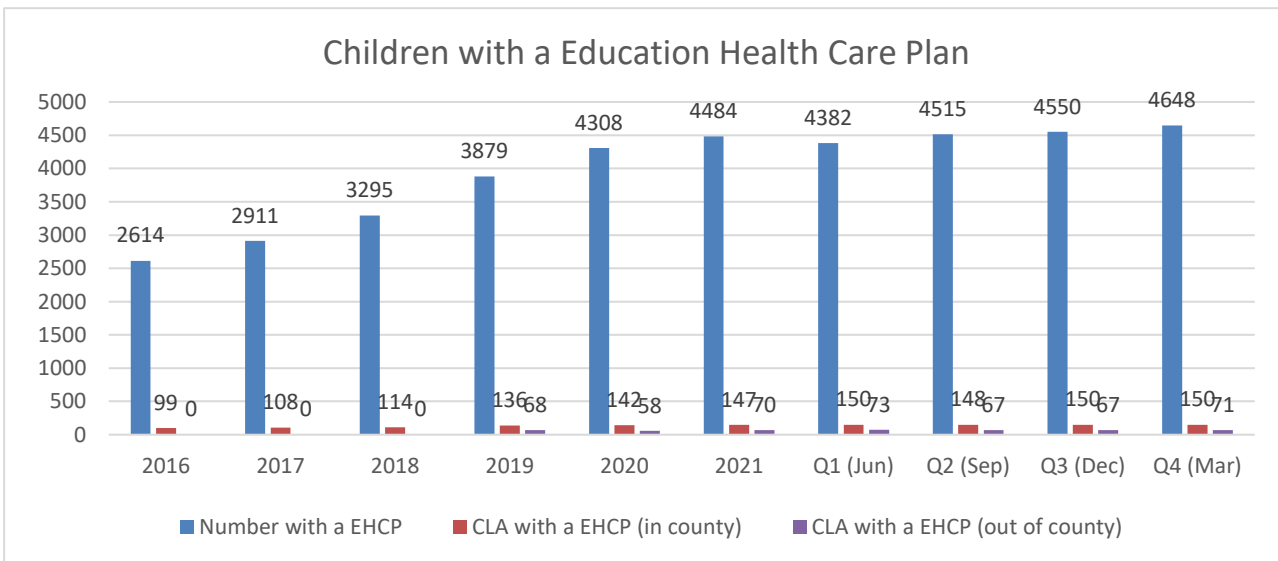
All year 12 and 13 CLA have a scheduled (PPP). **There is a high rate of (PEP) completion each term (100%)**. These are facilitated by VS Post 16 Learning Advocates. This is a new role within the VS this academic year. The Designated Practitioner/Teacher (DT) and Social Worker (in consultation with the carer) upload relevant information to the (PPP) **prior to the meeting** and attend the meeting/consultation call.

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 the (VS), these 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

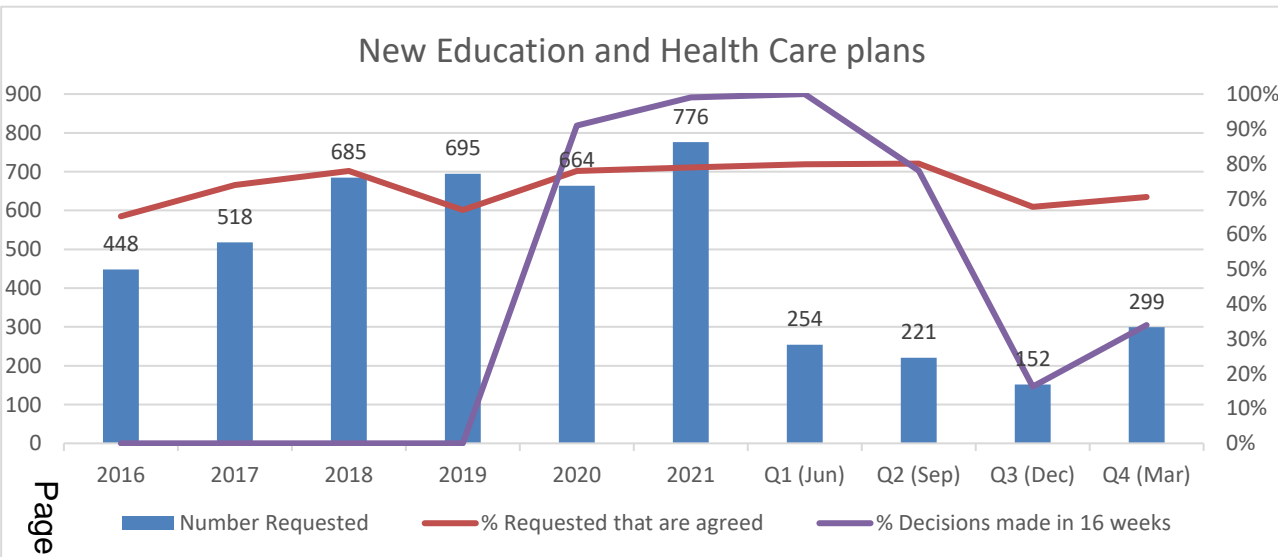
Half termly quality assurance activities focus on specific groups of CLA or themes, these reflect the priorities within the Virtual School Improvement Plan. VSHT and VS Education Co-ordinator attend PEP/PPP meetings on a regular basis to offer support, advice and guidance to VS Learning Advocates and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



Children with a Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)

As at end of Academic Year unless stated

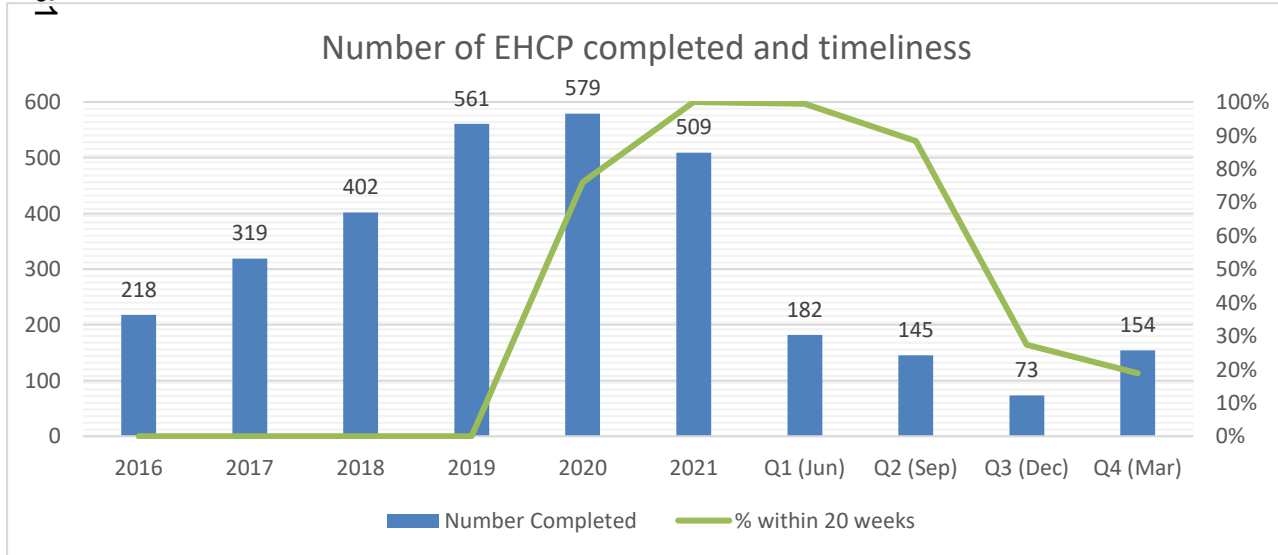
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)	Q3 (Dec)	Q4 (Mar)
Number with a EHCP	2614	2911	3295	3879	4308	4484	4382	4515	4550	4648
CLA with a EHCP (in county)	99	108	114	136	142	147	150	148	150	150
CLA with a EHCP (out of county)	n/a	n/a	n/a	68	58	70	73	67	67	71
CIN with a EHCP	n/a	n/a	n/a	74	113	65	79	72	92	105
CPP with a EHCP	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	22	24	24	22	18	22
EH plans with a EHCP	n/a	n/a	n/a	43	0 (covid)	31	42	32	39	34



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

As at end of Academic Year unless stated

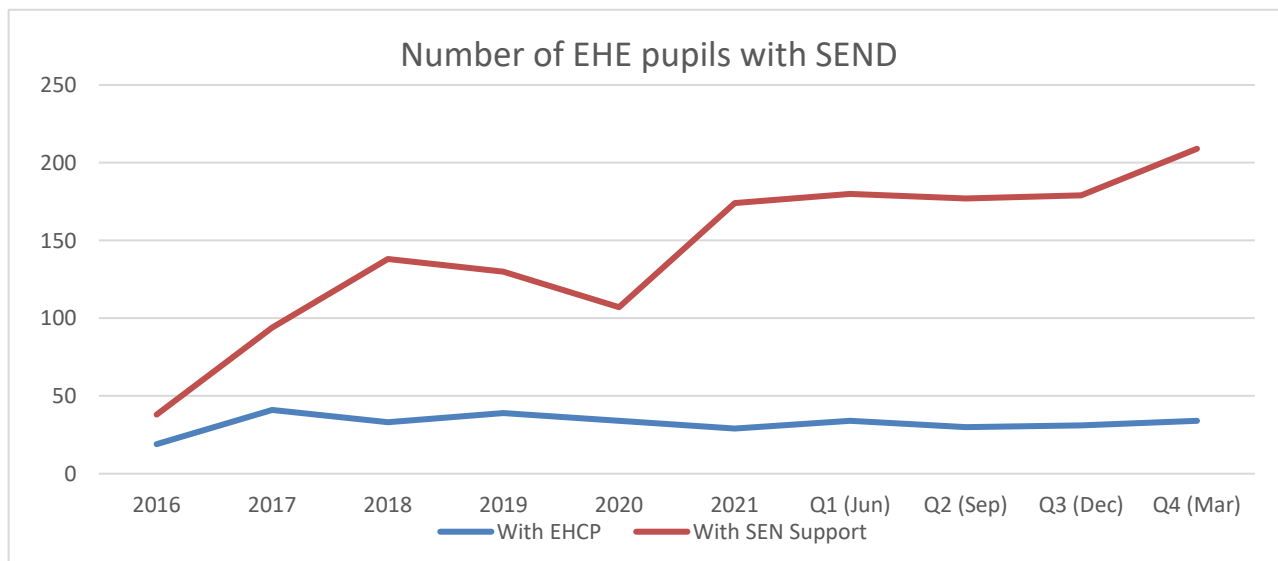
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)	Q3 (Dec)	Q4 (Mar)
Number Requested	448	518	685	695	664	776	254	221	152	299
% Requested that are agreed	65%	74%	78%	67%	78%	79%	80%	80%	68%	71%
% Decisions made in 16 weeks (minus exceptions)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	91%	99%	100%	78%	16%	34%



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

As at end of Academic Year unless stated

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)	Q3 (Dec)	Q4 (Mar)
Number Completed	218	319	402	561	579	509	182	145	73	154
% within 20 weeks (minus exceptions)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	76%	100%	99%	88%	27%	19%



Number of Elective Home Educated pupils with SEND

As at end of Academic Year unless stated

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Q1 (Jun)	Q2 (Sep)	Q3 (Dec)	Q4 (Mar)
With EHCP	19	41	33	39	34	29	34	30	31	34
With SEN Support	38	94	138	130	107	174	180	177	179	209

Commentary**Number of EHCP's**

The total number of EHCP' has continued to increase over the last quarter as we had anticipated. This has been particularly evident in January and March, and is not showing signs of levelling off. This was the expectation and is a trend that is being seen nationally. This increase in demand was anticipated locally and nationally as a consequence of COVID, particularly for those children and young people who have SEMH needs. The analysis of children and young people with additional needs, identified as Children looked After (CLA) and subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) remains fairly consistent across the quarters. Children in Need (CIN) has continued to increase as per the previous quarter. The last quarter has also seen a significant increase in requests as outlined.

EHCP's requested and timeliness

The performance over the last quarter of completing assessments within timescales, has shown small indications of recovery 16% to 34% but is still below target. Improving and maintaining this will be a challenge due to there being a significant increase in demand this quarter in requests made for an EHCP.

The timeliness of completing an EHCP remains challenged, the main challenge being Education Psychology (EP) advice being completed within the statutory timescale, this is due to capacity. Whilst we have successfully recruited permanent EPs some are not able to start until September 2022, and due to the national shortage recruiting Associate EPs is difficult. Analysis has also shown that health services are also under performing in submitting their advice within the 6 weeks statutory timescale. This is and will continue to be an area of focus. This delay places pressure on the SEND team to review the advice and create the plan in the remaining time available. We continue to liaise with health colleagues about this issue and undertake audit work to gain an understanding of the challenges and how they can be addressed.

A change in emphasis in practice to increase coproduction and communication has also contributed to a delay in final plans being issued. Whilst improving the quality our challenge is to achieve both timeliness, coproduction and quality. The service are continually mindful of timeliness not being at the expense of quality.

The service has also seen some significant staff turn over, this has disrupted services. We have permanently recruited to some posts and used agency cover for others. Staffing is now 85% permanent staff and 8% agency or interim acting up arrangements, by staff in the current establishment.

Commentary**Elective Home Educated Children with SEND**

The number of children with an EHCP who are electively home educated (EHE) remains similar to the previous quarter. However we are seeing an upward trend of parents choosing to EHE, for those children who receive SEND support. More generally nationally, the number of families choosing to home educate has been increasing in recent years, the COVID pandemic clearly accelerated the trend. The most common reason given by parents were concerns about their child's anxiety or SEMH needs.

A survey by the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) estimated that the cumulative number of children and young people receiving EHE across 152 local authorities increased by 34% i.e. between the academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Anecdotal reporting suggests an increase in the choice of EHE following positive experiences of home schooling during COVID, either in parents enjoying and seeing progress for the child in a very focused, having a bespoke curriculum or from the reduction in stress by not having points of conflict of meeting external demand. We would need further analysis to confirm this hypothesis. EHE is monitored by the vulnerable learners service. It should be noted there is no statutory requirement for parent carers to give a reason for their choice to EHE.

Appendix 2 - Budget Monitoring 2021/22 - Outturn

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel

7th July 2022

Overview of Council Outturn 2021/22

- Cabinet was presented with the provisional financial results for the Council on 1 July 2022.
- Position was a net underspend of £1.3m on a £355.5m budget.
- The £1.3m will be added to general fund balances which stand at £14.3m.
- In addition to the base budget the council had £70.4m of Covid related grant income (£46.9m received in 2021/22 and £23.5m brought forward from 2020/21).

Service area	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m
People – Adults	133.691	133.702	0.011
People – Communities	20.131	19.409	(0.722)
People – Public Health	(2.389)	(2.375)	0.014
Children’s Services/WCF	106.791	106.791	0.000
Economy & Infrastructure	55.349	55.104	(0.245)
Commercial & Change	7.465	6.672	(0.793)
Chief Executive/HR	1.098	0.850	(0.248)
Sub Total: Services	322.136	320.153	(1.983)
Corporate Savings Target	(1.500)	0.000	1.500
Finance /Corporate Items	34.895	34.042	(0.853)
Total	355.531	354.195	(1.336)

Children's / WCF Budget figure of £106.7m is the net budget to pay the net contract price to WCF

Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn 2021/22

DSG year-end position is an overspend of £4.8m with a cumulative deficit of £11.3m at the end of 2021/22, the deficit position at the end of 2022/23 is predicted to be around £19m:

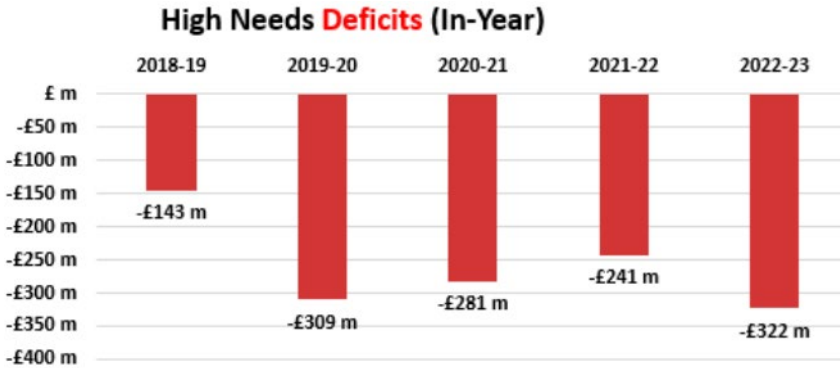
Overspends	
R	Over 5%
A	1% to 5%
G	0 to 1%

2021/22 Budget Monitoring Outturn - March 2022	Current Budget	Outturn	Variance	Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%
Schools DSG Block	124,528	123,178	(1,350)	-1.0%
High Needs DSG Block	59,353	65,649	6,296	10.5%
Early Years DSG Block	32,480	31,794	(686)	-1.9%
Central DSG Block	3,377	3,203	(174)	-5.2%
Other School Grants	0	(263)	(263)	0.0%
DSG	219,738	223,561	3,823	
DSG Grant	(219,738)	(218,751)	987	-0.4%
DSG transfer from Reserves	0	(4,810)	(4,810)	0.0%
DSG including Grant Income	0	0	0	

Summary Position for Dedicated Schools Grant	
	£m
Accumulated Deficit 1 April 2021	6.5
High Needs Deficit 2021/22	6.3
Savings on Other Blocks	-1.5
School Funding Position	0.0
Projected Accumulated Deficit 31 March 2022	11.3
Potential Future call on Early Years and Schools Block Pupil Growth	3.1
Projected High Needs Shortfall 2022/23	5.0
Projected Accumulated Deficit 31 March 2023	19.4

- Key pressures remain as previously reported to panel – specifically Out of County provision and Post-16 provision in the High Needs block. Worcestershire High Needs pressures are in line with known national picture.
- This deficit will sit on the WCC balance sheet as an unusable reserve and carried forward against future DSG income. In October 2019, the DfE introduced legislation to stop local authorities contributing to the DSG budgets, in effect allowing a negative balance to be carried forward. WCC will not be required or able, without the express permission of the government, to underpin the overspend on the DSG, however this legislation expires at the end of 2022/23 where this deficit will revert to the County Council.

- DSG deficits have been increasing over the last few years with some LA's with a deficits of over £40m to £60m+
- Some LA's having are part of safety valve programme - 9 LA's receiving £300m additional funding (£127m upfront in 2021/22) the remainder reserved for future years.
- Delivering Better Value in SEND support programme to support up to 55 local authorities to reform their high needs systems, addressing the underlying issues that lead to increased pressure, and putting them on a more sustainable footing. £85m one off funding has been set aside for this Worcestershire are included.

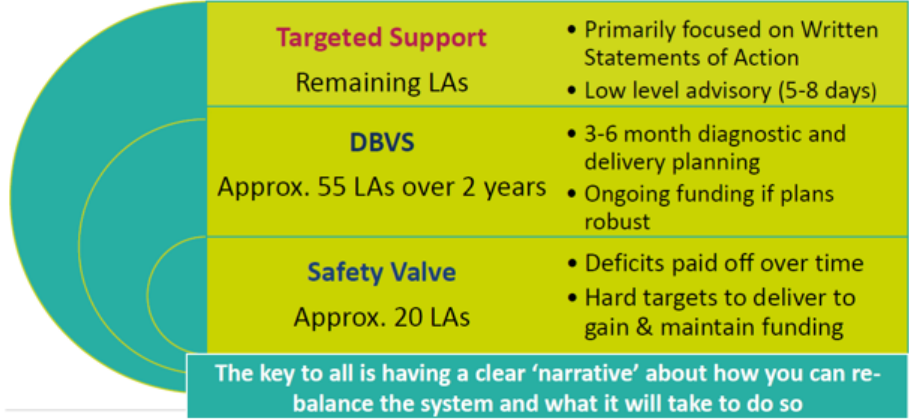


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Deficit's will impact on our financial sustainability with a cliff edge at the end 2022/23 the point at which the statutory override ends, the deficits return to councils' balance sheets with the requirement to offset the deficits with other reserves.

- Even if the SEND Review is able to solve the existing structural challenges and ensure costs stop rising, the deficits will remain and must be addressed if local authorities are to be on a sustainable footing. Limited Capital funding for SEND £5m in 2022/23.
- In cumulative terms, High Needs deficits have increased or are forecasted to increase throughout the surveyed period; currently at almost £750m this is forecasted to almost double to over £1.31bn by March 2023.

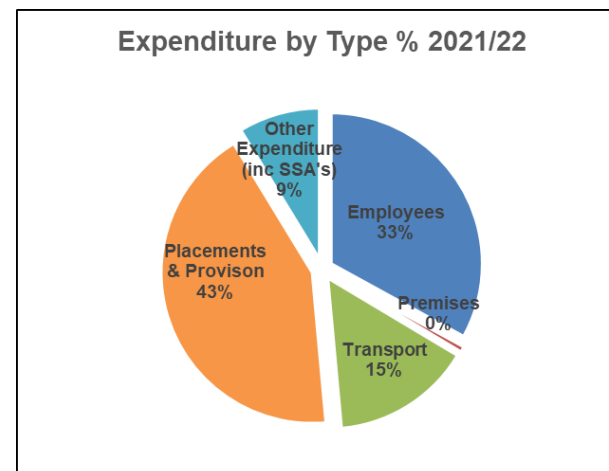
3 new layers of DfE 'intervention' are coming



WCF Budget Overview 2021/22

- The full-year WCF budget is currently £128m of which over half is the 'demand led' budgets of Placements and Home to School Transport.

WCF Budget 2021/22	£000's
Employees	42,073
Premises	748
Transport	19,103
Placements & Provison	54,514
Other Expenditure (inc SSA's)	11,099
Gross Expenditure	127,537
Sales, Fees and Charges	-2,162
WCF Budget / Contract Price	125,375



- When we set the budget, we highlighted the inherent risk on placements could exceed the budget for 2021/22 of up to £2m and this will be mitigated by the £1.9m risk reserve, this wasn't needed only due to very careful management and corrective action taken throughout the year.
- As part of the Council's budget setting process, the Company was required to find £2.950m of savings to contribute to an overall balanced position, these were delivered. Resources Restructuring £650k, the in-sourcing of school improvement has enabled us to grow our traded element and by an additional £0.6m and various service reviews and targeted specific budget reductions were identified and worked through with service leads across the business.

Outturn 2021/22 - £51k underspend, so breakeven

As at P9, WCF is forecast to have an in-year deficit of £0.45m, which was 0.4% of the contract sum. This has been eventually turned around by the Company to a small surplus position at year-end.

	Latest Budget £000	YTD £000	Full-year Projection £000	Variance £000	Variance %	Change since last month £000
Contract Income	125,375	126,101	126,101	726	0.58%	726
Government Grants	0	6	6	6	0.00%	6
Interest	0	5	5	5	0.00%	0
CCG Income	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Covid-19 Costs from WCC	0	569	569	569	0.00%	-45
Sales, Fees and Charges	2,162	3,200	3,200	1,038	48.03%	699
Total Income	127,537	129,881	129,881	2,344	1.84%	1,386
<i>less expenditure</i>						
Employees	42,073	39,494	39,494	-2,579	-6.13%	220
Premises	748	748	748	0	0.00%	54
Transport	19,103	18,503	18,503	-600	-3.14%	-447
Supplies & Services	15,230	16,542	16,542	1,312	8.62%	-588
Third Party Payments	50,365	54,504	54,504	4,139	8.22%	2,152
Transfer Payments	4	0	0	-4	-99.28%	-2
Education Payments	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Reserves	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Support Services	14	33	33	19	141.21%	19
Total Expenditure	127,537	129,823	129,823	2,287	1.79%	1,408
Projected Surplus/(Deficit) before Corporation Tax	0	57	57	57		-22

The story is very similar to last year – pressures on Placements for Looked After Children c £1.8m caused an overspend in that area, which the service is mitigated by finding reductions in other areas. This is illustrated on the next page where the forecast is shown at service level.

Outturn 2021/22 - £51k underspend, so breakeven (2)

	Latest Budget £000	YTD £000	Full-year Projection £000	Variance £000	Variance %	Change since last month £000
WCF Management & Board	773	595	595	-178	-23.03%	11
Training	197	137	137	-61	-30.71%	-19
Resources Teams	3,686	3,277	3,277	-410	-11.12%	32
Support Service Payments	7,531	7,506	7,506	-25	-0.33%	0
Resources	12,188	11,514	11,514	-673	-5.52%	24
CSC Safeguarding Services	12,838	13,520	13,520	682	5.31%	-68
Integrated Family Front Door	4,758	4,439	4,439	-319	-6.71%	-61
Placements & Provision	57,818	59,616	59,616	1,798	3.11%	954
Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0
CSC Through Care	5,589	5,563	5,563	-26	-0.46%	-135
CSC Targeted Family Support	4,362	4,008	4,008	-353	-8.10%	29
Social Care	85,365	87,146	87,146	1,782	2.09%	719
Sufficiency & Safeguarding	681	457	457	-224	-32.91%	-142
Quality and Improvement	1,632	1,694	1,694	62	3.79%	52
SEND & Vulnerable learners	6,796	7,126	7,126	330	4.86%	49
Education and Early Help	9,109	9,277	9,277	168	1.84%	-41
Home to School Transport	18,206	18,206	18,206	0	0.00%	0
Home to School Transport	18,206	18,206	18,206	0	0.00%	0
Youth Offending Services	507	470	470	-38	-7.47%	0
Youth Offending Services	507	470	470	-38	-7.47%	0
TOTAL	125,375	126,613	126,613	1,238	0.99%	702
Contract Income	125,375	126,101	126,101	726	0.58%	726
Costs to go back to WCC	0	0	0	0	0.00%	6
CCG Income	0	0	0	0	0.00%	6
Covid Costs from Council	0	569	569	569	0.00%	-45
Projected Surplus/(Deficit) before Corporation Tax	0	57	57	57		-10
Corporation Tax Liability				6		
Surplus/(Deficit) to transfer to retained earnings				51		

Resources Directorate was underspent due to several posts held vacant and not expecting to be filled until the new Financial Year. Directorate restructure completed and £0.65m savings delivered. Takes account of savings from revised Senior Leadership Structure that went live on 1 October 2021. the Directorate will release further savings and assist with the overall financial position of the company in 2022/23

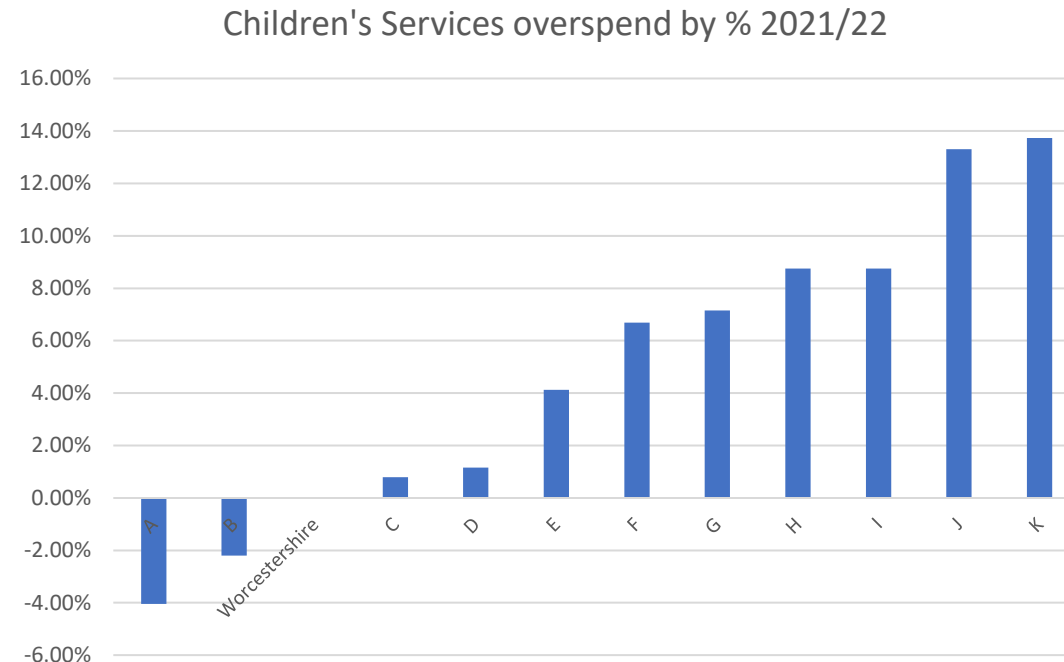
Social Care Service placements were overspent due to being demand led and to the high cost of some of these places. The success of other Social Care areas in terms of budgetary control (by holding vacancies where possible) continues. Whilst the external placement numbers are increasing locally and nationally. Our robust commissioning and management approach have resulted in cost avoidances which limited price increases. There was pressure on short breaks for children with disabilities, however this is avoiding some high-cost packages in place.

The key overspends in 2021/22 relate to the Educational Psychology Service £0.186m (who have agency arrangements in place) and SEND team - £0.120m including non-staffing budget (for legal services, tribunal and mediation). Sufficiency & Place Planning have a £0.092m underspend due to delayed recruitment to posts.

The required savings of £2.95m have been delivered for 2021/22 – the increased trading income of £0.6m has been achieved and income from schools are marginally under the target.

Comparison with Other Local Authorities Children's Services

- In comparison with OLA's WCF are managing well the pressures of this demand let budget.
- Given the timing of year end the of LA's / Trusts that have publicly published their outturn WCF show a positive outcome.
- Data anonymised as taken from Cabinet reports as all Council's report differently.



- WCF external audit was complete at the end of June – by our Auditors Grant Thornton.
- Accounts prepared under FRS102.
- WCF Risk, Governance and Audit Board will review accounts and audit report in detail in early July.
- Anticipated Unmodified audit opinion – clean bill of health.
- Included as part of council’s group financial statements that were presented to Cabinet on 1 July 2022.

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Any questions?

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 7 JULY 2022

WORK PROGRAMME

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. Worcestershire County Council has a rolling annual Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny. The 2022/23 Work Programme has been developed by taking into account issues still to be completed from 2021/22, the views of Overview and Scrutiny Panel Members and other stakeholders, and the findings of the budget scrutiny process.
3. 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.
4. 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
5. The overall scrutiny work programme was discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) on 29 June 2022 and will be agreed by Council on 14 July 2022.

Dates of 2022 Meetings

- 22 September at 2pm
- 12 November at 10am

Purpose of the Meeting

6. 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

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance), 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

Date of Meeting	Issue for Scrutiny	Date of Last Report	Notes/Follow-up Action
7 July 2022	Youth Provision in Worcestershire		To Cabinet on 21 July 2022
	Update on Worcestershire Response to the Situation in Ukraine in relation to Children and Young People		Following discussion at OSPB 26 April 2022
	Performance (Q4 January to March) and Year End Budget Monitoring		
20 September 2022	Care Prevention and Protecting Children from Harm		
	Performance (Q1 April to June) and In-Year Budget Monitoring		
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		
January 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.
	Scrutiny of 2023/24 Budget		
	Delivery Model for Medical Education Provision – Update	16 March 2021	

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
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		
Standing Items			
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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