

Agenda

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 6 July 2023, 2.00 pm
Council Chamber, 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

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, 6 July 2023, 2.00 pm, County Hall, Worcester

Membership

Councillors:

Cllr Steve Mackay (Chairman), Cllr David Chambers (Vice Chairman), Cllr Dan Boatright-Greene, 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 Tim Reid

Parent Governor Representatives (for education matters)

Mr Mark 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 5 July 2023). 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	The Integrated Care System Autism Strategy Development (Indicative timing: 2.05 – 2.35pm)	1 - 8
6	Worcestershire Learning Disability Strategy 2023-2028 (Indicative timing: 2.35 – 3.05pm)	9 - 14
7	Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND 2023-26 (Indicative timing: 3.05 – 3.35pm)	15 - 56

Agenda produced and published by the Assistant Director for 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

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

Item No	Subject	Page No
8	Delivery of the All-Age Carers Strategy for Worcestershire (Indicative timing: 3.35 – 4.05pm)	57 - 64

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

6 JULY 2023

THE INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM AUTISM STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Summary

1. The Panel will receive an update on the Integrated Care System (ICS) All-Age Autism Strategy which is currently under development. The representatives invited for this discussion are:
 - The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families, Adult Social Care, and Health and Well Being, Worcestershire County Council
 - The Assistant Director, People and Commissioning and the Lead Commissioner, Learning and Disability, Worcestershire County Council
 - The Director for All Age Disability, Worcestershire Children First (WCF)
 - The Managing Director, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB).
 - The Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

Background

2. A new National Autism Strategy 2021-2026 was published in July 2021 and incorporates both children and adults into the National Strategy ambitions for the first time. The areas of focus include:
 - Improving understanding and acceptance of autism within society.
 - Improving autistic children and young people's access into education and supporting positive transitions into adulthood.
 - Supporting more autistic people into employment.
 - Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people.
 - Building the right support in the community.
 - Improving support in criminal and youth justice systems.
3. Worcestershire's most recent All-age Autism Strategy ran from 2019-22 and it was agreed to update this in line with the National Strategy.
4. There is an active Worcestershire multi-agency Autism Partnership Board, including representation from people with lived experience, carers and parent carers, social care, health, WCF, Public Health, voluntary sector and housing (list not exhaustive) that provides critical oversight and challenge to Worcestershire's Autism work and reports jointly to Health and Wellbeing Board and the ICS Learning Disability and Autism Quality Assurance Programme Board.

5. The ICS Learning Disability and Autism Programme Board already brings together the aspirations of the two counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire into one health related workstream. It brings to life and holds to account the local action plan delivering the national NHS 3-year plan. The ICS Assurance Board proposed the creation of a joint Autism strategy across the footprint. The Autism Partnership Boards for Worcestershire and Herefordshire endorsed the joint approach with local place-based sections within the strategy that enable specific work streams in each County (particularly around Children's Services and Education). This approach was agreed by the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2022.

Legislative context

6. The Autism Act 2009 requires the Government to introduce and keep under review an Adult Autism Strategy. The initial Strategy was published in 2010 and refreshed in 2014. The statutory guidance is aimed at supporting the NHS and local authorities in implementing the strategy in areas such as staff training, identification and diagnosis, transition planning when people move from children to adult services, employment, and criminal justice.
7. The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice (2015), continues to place duties on local authorities, NHS organisations and schools in respect of autistic children and young people. There is also a duty to provide services to disabled children under section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.
8. The Health and Social Care Act 2022 requires all Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered providers to undertake Mandatory Autism Training.

Strategy Development Plan

9. Both local Autism Partnership Boards considered the National Strategy in the development of a vision for the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Strategy. It was agreed that the priorities should be broadly the same, with the addition of a priority regarding staying safe.
10. The Strategy has been split into seven workstreams, with a workstream lead for each element. Each work stream lead has a role description co-produced by the Autism Partnership Boards to set out the work to be completed. This includes: co-production at every stage of the development, understanding the data, the story behind the data, engagement, analysis of the engagement activity and co-producing key actions for each priority.
11. The workstream leads, where possible are subject matter experts and are set out in the table over the page:

<u>Priority</u>	<u>*Helping Autistic People to:</u> (taken from The national strategy for autistic children, young people and adults: 2021 to 2026 (Easy Read) (publishing.service.gov.uk))	<u>Lead</u>
Improving understanding and acceptance of autism within society.	Feel less isolated and lonely Be treated well in their community Feel understood by business and organisations Use reasonably adjusted public spaces Use reasonably adjusted public transport	National Autistic Society
Improving autistic children and young people's access into education and support positive transitions into adulthood.	Get the right help at school/college Have teachers who understand and can help Get support to live in their community Find work Access higher education Get the mental health support that they need	Director for All Age Disability, WCF (there is a separate lead for this priority in Herefordshire)
Supporting more autistic people into employment	Find and stay in work Have help to live well if they can't work	Lead Commissioner Adult Social Care, Worcestershire (until a more appropriate subject matter lead can be found)
Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people	Live healthier and for longer Get help from an earlier age Not have to wait more than 13 weeks for help Get the Mental Health support that they need	Lead for Neurodiverse Children and Young People, ICB
Building the right support in the community	Avoid admission to Mental Health hospital where possible Leave Mental Health hospital as soon as they are well Have access to good quality social care and housing	Lead Commissioner, Worcestershire County Council
Improving support in criminal and youth justice systems	Have reasonable adjustments made within the criminal justice system	West Mercia Police

Keeping Safe	Be treated well in their community Have support for their families and carers to help to keep them safe Not have to experience hate crime, abuse, victimisation, or radicalisation	Senior Commissioner, Herefordshire County Council
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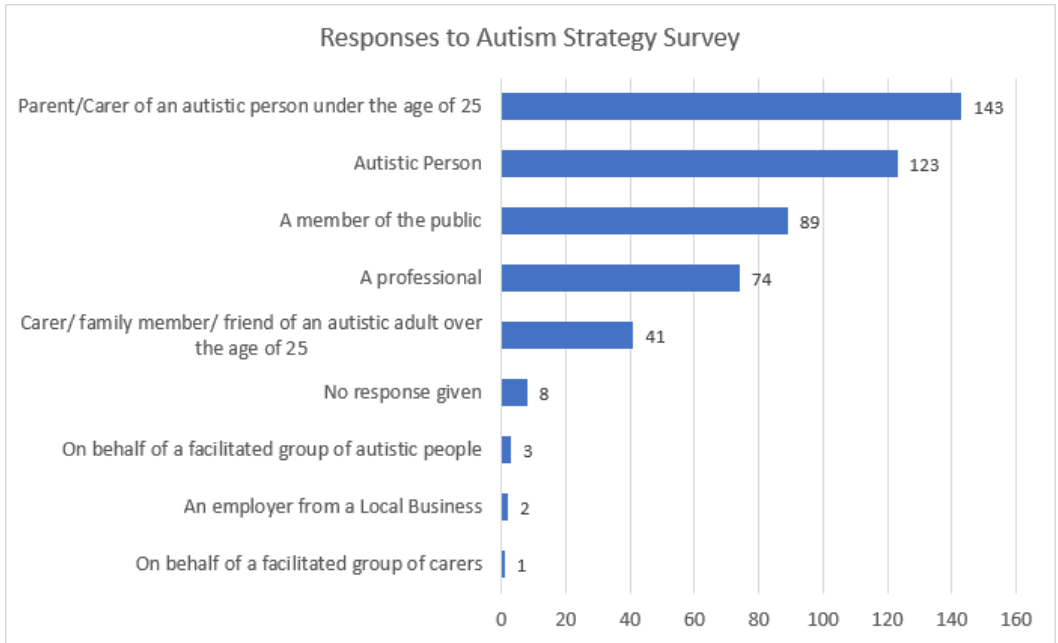
*These are the key outcomes taken from the National Strategy (Easy Read). Our own strategic work and co-production, once completed, is likely to identify more/different outcomes for people.

Strategy development so far

12. The key achievements are set out in the table below

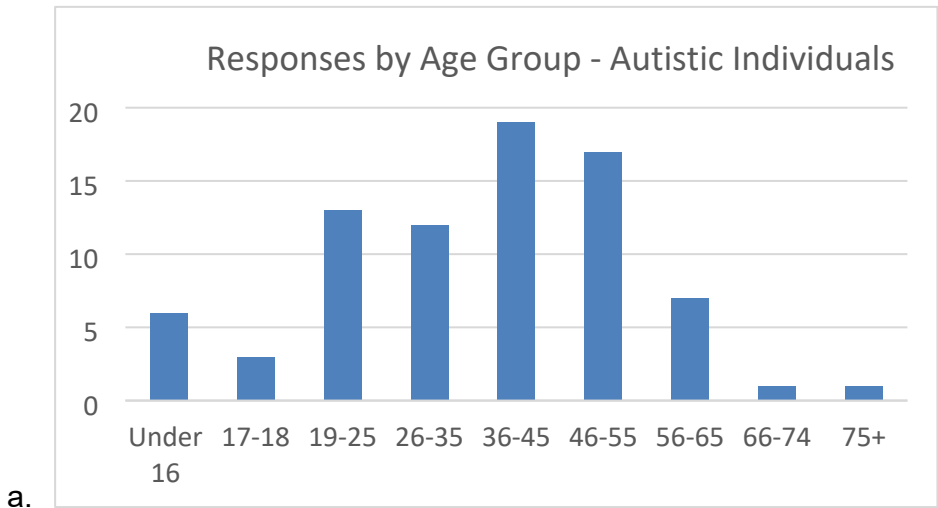
Co-production of key areas to focus on for each priority	Autism Partnership Boards both worked on a document to support the work of the workstream leads setting out what should be included and who should be involved.
Workstream leads established	Each has a role description setting out the tasks to be completed and attends a project group.
Desktop analysis: what do we know	Work completed to identify what we know, what we don't know and who we need to ask for each priority.
Engagement	Building on the desktop analysis an engagement questionnaire was created and circulated to the public. Face to face engagement events conducted to support the engagement phase. So far this has included carers workshops, a housing focus group and an advocacy focus group.

13. The feedback from the questionnaire is still being analysed however, there was an encouraging 442 responses received from a wide range of people.



*Note some of the carers also responded as Autistic people so the numbers do not tally with the overall number of respondents.

- Of the Autistic people responding there were a wide range of ages. However, the questionnaire did not focus on children as it was felt a questionnaire was not the best method of engagement. Children will be engaged through the work on priority 2.



Next steps

- The work so far has shown that the Worcestershire strategy will largely reflect the National Strategy. The next steps for Herefordshire and Worcestershire are to focus on the key actions to take forward. The table below sets out the work to be completed with timescales.

Task	Completion date
Further face to face online engagement	10 September 2023
Updating of “what we know” documents for each priority	15 September 2023
Co-production of key actions for each priority	1 October 2023
Draw information into a strategy	10 October 2023
Start Strategy sign off process	10 October 2023
First “you said, we did” newsletter to be produced	1 April 2024

Legal, Financial, and HR Implications

16. **Legal** – The All-Age Autism Strategy will need to ensure that the system complies and support compliance with the Statutory Guidance [Adult autism strategy: supporting its use - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101414/adult-autism-strategy-supporting-its-use.pdf)

Equality and Diversity Implications

17. All re-commissioning exercises are subject to the completion of appropriate Impact Assessments, including Equality Impact Assessments wherever there may be equality and diversity implications.

Purpose of the Meeting

18. The Panel is asked to:

- Consider and comment on the All Age Autism Strategy being developed;
- Agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families, Adult Social Care, and Health and Well Being and the NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB); and
- Determine whether any further information or scrutiny is required

Contact Points

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Laura Westwood, Lead Commissioner, Tel: 01905 846739
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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

6 JULY 2023

WORCESTERSHIRE LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY 2023-2028

Summary

1. The Panel will receive an update on the new Worcestershire Learning Disability Strategy 2023-2028. The representatives invited for this discussion are:
 - The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families, Adult Social Care, and Health and Well Being, Worcestershire County Council
 - The Strategic Director, People, the Assistant Director, People and Commissioning, and the Lead Commissioner, Learning Disability, Worcestershire County Council
 - The Director for All Age Disability from Worcestershire Children First
 - The Managing Director, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB).
 - The Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

Background

2. The strategy has been co-produced by the Worcestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board on behalf of people with a Learning Disability and their families and is an all-age strategy. The strategy was presented to and endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 23 May 2023 and a link is included as Appendix 1.
3. The Worcestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board (WLDPB) has a membership of partners from across Worcestershire, including Expert Members by experience (one of whom co-chairs the Board), family carers, providers of services, and professionals from across health and social care. The WLDPB includes all-age representation from both Worcestershire Children First and Families in Partnership, as well as close links with young people with Learning Disabilities through Expert Member representation from the self-advocacy organisations SpeakEasy NOW and Our Way.
4. Over the last 12 months, the WLDPB has worked with stakeholders to co-produce the new Worcestershire Learning Disability Strategy on behalf of all people with a Learning Disability in Worcestershire.

Development of the Strategy

5. To develop the strategy, the WLDPB talked to people with Learning Disabilities and family carers as well as people working in a wide range of support services across Worcestershire's communities. The Board ran workshops, attended coffee

mornings and self-advocacy groups and facilitated many conversations and discussions, as well as running a survey to find out people's views.

6. The strategy sets out some of the most important areas where the WLDPB think actions need to be taken by people and organisations in Worcestershire to improve the lives of people with Learning Disabilities and their carers. It is organised across seven themes:
 - Theme 1: A Place to Live – A Home
 - Theme 2: Communities Which Include Everyone
 - Theme 3: Purposeful Days
 - Theme 4: Being Healthy – Body and Mind
 - Theme 5: Life Changes
 - Theme 6: Being Safe
 - Theme 7: The Right Support for Family Carers.
7. Each theme area sets out high level aims for Worcestershire, along with some suggested actions. The WLDPB would like organisations in Worcestershire to use these aims and actions in their own individual strategies and delivery plans so that together we are helping to make Worcestershire a great place to live for people with Learning Disabilities.
8. The strategy is designed to be accessible to all and uses some “Easy Read” Photo symbols, as well as Jargon Busters and Explainers and photographs of local people. The strategy also includes many local case studies and quotes from Worcestershire people to show what success will look and feel like. A summary version is also being produced to accompany the strategy which will summarise the aims and actions and will be a full Easy Read document.
9. The WLDPB recognises and embraces the fact that the strategy is ambitious and aspirational, and that it will take some time to achieve all the aims and ambitions. Working with all partners, some specific actions have therefore been identified for focus during the first year of the strategy. These are summarised in the “Year 1 Action Plan” section at the end of the strategy document. The WLDPB will review the strategy every year and measure the progress in Worcestershire, looking at these actions as well as the bigger aims and actions in each of the strategy themes. The first annual review will take place in May 2024.
10. The Learning Disability Strategy is across all ages. There is a specific theme (Theme 5 – Life Changes) which focusses on major life transitions, including the transition from childhood into adulthood. The aim of this theme is: “We want people with Learning Disabilities to have a positive experience of major life changes, including the transitions from childhood to adulthood and into older adulthood.”
11. Within Theme 5, there are two specific high-level actions focussed on the transition from childhood to adulthood in order to improve experiences for young people with Learning Disabilities, specifically:
 - “There should be good quality information available to families from the earliest years about what adulthood will be like and what opportunities will be available, to enable children and young people with learning disabilities to plan their lives and achieve their ambitions” and

- “Preparation for adulthood planning should start from the earliest years, and services need to be co-ordinated so that young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities experience positive transitions as they progress through their education and into adult life.”

12. Organisations and groups identified who need to support the implementation of these aims include:

- Worcestershire Children First
- Worcestershire Adult Social Care
- Health services
- Schools
- Colleges
- Worcestershire Association of Carers
- Families in Partnership
- Housing providers
- Care providers
- Voluntary organisations
- People with Learning Disabilities
- Families of people with Learning Disabilities
- Advocates and representatives

13. As well as a specific targeted “Life Changes” theme, all the strategy themes are intended to have a positive impact on people with Learning Disabilities of all ages. The “Preparation for Adulthood” sections in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (“SEND”) Code of Practice (2015) identify four key outcome areas which local areas need to focus on to enable good Preparing for Adulthood outcomes:

- Education, training and employment
- Independent living
- Friends, relationships and communities
- Good health

14. These areas all directly link to themes in the Learning Disability strategy. For example, the “Purposeful Days” theme aims to increase opportunities for people with Learning Disabilities to be able to play active roles in their communities, including through volunteering or paid employment. Similarly, the “Place to Live – a Home” theme focusses on enabling everyone to live in a place they feel is their home, promoting and maximising independence.

15. Theme 2 “Communities Which Include Everyone” sets out the aim that “People with Learning Disabilities have a right to be fully part of their community”, calling on all of Worcestershire’s communities (including digital spaces) to be welcoming and accessible to all.

16. Good health is addressed specifically in Theme 4 “Being Healthy Body and Mind” which for the first time in Worcestershire’s Learning Disability Strategy gives equal prominence to mental health alongside physical health. This theme

focuses on reducing the significant health disparities which exist between those with a Learning Disability and the general population.

17. In the words of the Expert Member Co-Chair of the WLDPB: “We want this strategy to make a real difference. By taking action we can make a positive change to the lives of people with learning disabilities in Worcestershire.”

Equality and Diversity Implications

18. The aim of the new Worcestershire Learning Disability Strategy 2023-2028 is to make Worcestershire a great place to live for people with Learning Disabilities. The strategy sets out some of the most important areas where actions need to be taken by people and organisations in Worcestershire to improve the lives of people with Learning Disabilities and those who know, love and support them.
19. Throughout the strategy there is a focus on reducing inequality and celebrating diversity, and this is best encapsulated in the five co-produced principles which underpin the strategy:
 - Working Together
 - Supporting Each Other
 - Including Everyone
 - Treating People Fairly
 - Enabling Good Lives
20. The implementation of the strategy by all stakeholders will therefore have a positive equality and diversity impact.

Purpose of the Meeting

21. The Panel is asked to:
 - consider the information provided relating to the Worcestershire Learning Disability Strategy 2023-2028;
 - Agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families, Adult Social Care, and Health and Well Being, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB); and
 - Determine whether any further information or scrutiny is required

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Worcestershire Learning Disability Strategy 2023-2028 - page 25 on this link [Agenda for Health and Wellbeing Board 23 May 2023](#)

Contact Points

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Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Frances Kelsey - Lead Commissioner, Adult Social Care and Co-Chair of Worcestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board

Tel: 01905 643500

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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 for Health and Wellbeing Board 23 May 2023](#)

All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

6 JULY 2023

WORCESTERSHIRE STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND 2023-26

Summary

1. The Panel will receive an update on the draft Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2023-26
2. The representatives invited for this discussion are:
 - The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families, Adult Social Care, and Health and Well Being, Worcestershire County Council
 - The Director for All Age Disability and the Director of Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning, Worcestershire Children First
 - The Managing Director, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB).
 - The Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust
3. Presentation slides are attached as Appendix 1.

Background

4. Local Authorities and partners must have regard to the SEND Code of Practice (January 2015) which provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations. It relates to children and young people (CYP) with special educational needs (SEN) and disabled children and young people up to the age of 25.
5. The previous Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND 2017-2021 was approved by Cabinet on 8 February 2018.

Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND 2023-26

6. The purpose of Worcestershire's SEND Strategy is to deliver the local partners' statutory duties by setting out a case for change and improvement. This refreshed draft Strategy (attached as Appendix 2) has been co-produced with the SEND and All Age Disability Partnership Board including the Parent Carer Forum. Workshops were also held with school children to inform the priorities.
7. Six Strategic Priorities were identified as part of the development of the latest SEND Strategy and they are:

- i. Identification and assessment of SEND is timely and effective
 - ii. There is sufficient and effective SEND provision
 - iii. There is awareness and understanding of SEND within local communities
 - iv. Outcomes for young people with SEND are improved as a result of effective planning, preparation for adulthood and better coordination of service delivery to ensure positive transitions as they progress through their education
 - v. Children and young people with autism achieve positive outcomes and the support required to enable this is in place
 - vi. Emotional health and wellbeing is actively promoted for CYP with SEND and their families and effective targeted and specialist support is available for those CYP at risk of, or experiencing difficulties
8. These priorities form part of a plan to drive a programme of work that will be overseen by representatives of the accountable bodies through the SEND and All Age Disability Partnership Board reporting to the Children and Young People's Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Purpose of the Meeting

9. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:
- Consider and comment on the draft SEND Strategy
 - Agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families, Adult Social Care, and Health and Well Being and representatives from NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB)
 - Determine whether it would wish to carry out any further scrutiny.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Presentation slides

Appendix 2 – Draft Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2023-2026

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

Mel Barnett, Director for All Age Disability

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Sarah Wilkins, Director of Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning

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Email: swilkins@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Mari Gay, Managing Director NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire marigay@nhs.net

Background Papers

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

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 8th February, 2018](#)

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

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Presentation for Overview & Scrutiny

Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2023-2026

Page 19



Vision

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.

Principles

- Commitment to listening to and working with children and young people with SEND and their families to further improve, develop and innovate our SEND Strategy and the delivery of support and services.
- Recovery from the pandemic. We must understand the impact for CYP and continue to adapt to support and prevent lasting effect.
- Taking an all-age disability approach within our SEND Local Offer. This will ensure a seamless experience for CYP from 0-25 with SEND and their families.
- Commitment to the effective and efficient use of resources. This will support early intervention prevent escalation of need and promote inclusion

SEND Strategy 2023 – 2026 Priorities

Identification and assessment of SEND is timely and effective

There is sufficient and effective SEND provision

There is awareness and understanding of SEND within local communities

Outcomes for young people with SEND are improved as a result of effective planning, preparation for adulthood and better coordination of service delivery to ensure positive transitions as they progress through their education

CYP with autism achieve positive outcomes and the support required to enable this is in place

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

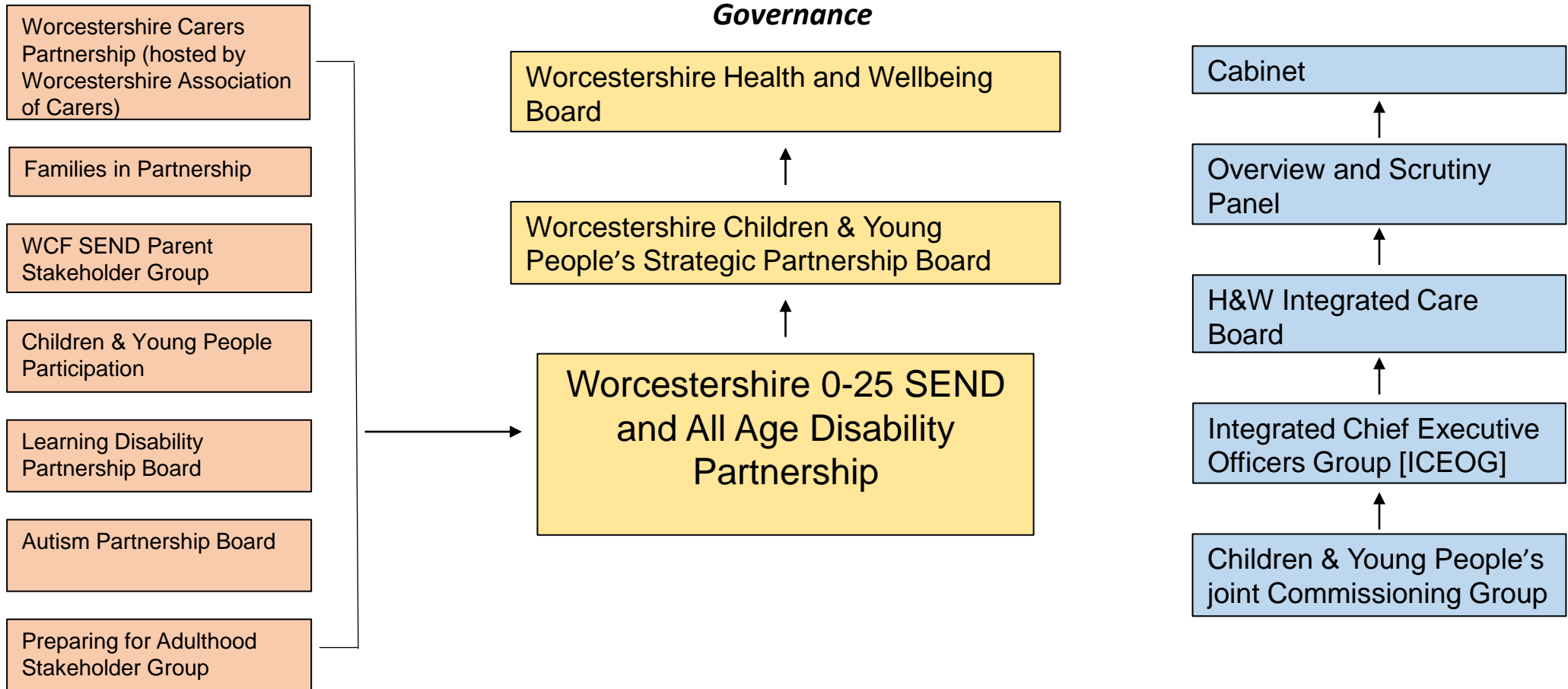
How do we know we are making a difference

- The SEND and All Age Disability Partnership Board will oversee the implementation of this Strategy and review annually the Delivery Plan.
- Board meetings will include regular monitoring of the Key Performance Indicators, evaluation including child young person and family voice and experiences and impact of the actions and activity provided by Delivery Leads that assist in implementing this Strategy.

Governance

Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational needs and Disabilities [SEND] 2023-2026

Governance



Delivery plan

<p>Attendance Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions to improve attendance for children with SEND Support and EHCPs 	<p>Learning Disability Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Place to Live, a Home • Communities which Include Everyone • Purposeful Days • Being Healthy, Body and Mind • Life Changes • Being Safe • The Right Support for Family Carers 	<p>Autism Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving understanding and acceptance of autism within society • Improving autistic children and young people's access into education and support • positive transitions into adulthood • Supporting more autistic people into employment • Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people • Building the right support in the community • Improving support in criminal and youth justice systems • Staying safe 	<p>All Age Carers Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised and valued • A life of my own • Supported to be physically and mentally well • Staying Safe 	<p>Early Help Strategy 2022- 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed Early Help across all agencies, partners and our workforce • Engagement of parents/ carers/ children and young people in the multi-agency early help offers of help and support • The development of a coherent start for life offer for all families. • An effective Holiday Activity and Food programme for children with SEND • The development of Family Hubs and co-located services.
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Outcome measures

<p>Partnership Review of Pre-School Forum and Pre School-Assessment (2022/23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Offer that describes how children under 5 have their needs identified and how needs are met Increase the % of EY with first time EHCPs going into mainstream reception as they transfer to statutory schooling 	<p>Accelerated Progress Plan: Mainstream Inclusion Quality of EHCP's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Schools actively involved in the EEF (Education endowment foundation) project - making a difference for pupils with SEND % of EHCP decisions made in 16 weeks (minus exceptions) % of EHCPs issues within 20 weeks. Increase the % of children with new EHC Plans that are placed in mainstream schools 	<p>Herefordshire and Worcestershire CYP Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Local Transformation Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesigned pathways for assessment and diagnostics Improved feedback from Children, Young People and their families Completion of wave 8 of the programme and wave 9 and 10 project plans accepted by NHSE Meeting national targets and standards for access and waiting times 	<p>Not in Employment, Education or Training [NEET] Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the Numbers of young people with EHCPs who become NEET aged 16-24 Grow the number of supported internships in the county – baseline of 45 from 2020/21 to 90 by 2025 Ensure all SEND Schools and mainstream secondary meet the number of assigned Provider encounters for young people as measured by the Careers and Enterprise Company (Provider Access legislation) 	<p>Worcestershire County Council's School Organisation Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the % of new CYP going to into independent provision Decrease the number of children awaiting a specialist placement who are not on a school roll Decrease the number of children awaiting a specialist placement who are on a school roll following a review that has confirmed specialist placement is needed
<p>Attendance Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve overall attendance for CYP with EHCP's Improve overall attendance for CYP with SEND Support Reduce Severe absence for children with EHCP's Reduce Severe absence for children with SEND Support 	<p>Learning Disability Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone should be able to live in a place they feel is their home, which is suitable for their individual needs and where they feel safe. People with Learning Disabilities should be able to contribute to and be fully part of society, whether through community activities, volunteering or paid employment We want people with Learning Disabilities to have a positive experience of major life changes, including the transitions from childhood to adulthood. 	<p>Autism Strategy</p> <p>Success measures for CYP will be updated by the end of Q2 2023/24.</p>	<p>All Age Carers Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Carers are recognised and supported in their caring role Young Carers are recognised and supported in their caring role Success measures will be described through the Local Area Joint Commissioning Group and WCP. 	<p>Early Help Strategy 2022- 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the % of training undertaken by individual agencies Impact of the Early Help in the community events. Take up of the Holiday Activity and Food programme for children with SEND Numbers of Family Hubs and co-located services.

Associated Strategy and Lead Person

Associated Strategy	Lead person
Partnership Review of Pre-School Assessment	Director of Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning/Director of All Age Disability
Accelerated Progress Plan	Director of All Age Disability
School Organisation Plan	Director of Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning
NEET Strategy	Head of Skills and Investment - WCC
Attendance Strategy	Director of Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning
EH Strategy	Public Health Consultant - WCC
Learning Disability Strategy	Lead Commissioner – LD - WCC
Autism Strategy	Lead Commissioner – LD - WCC/ICS Autism Champion - NHS
All Age Carer Strategy	Commissioning Manager – Carers - WCC
Herefordshire & Worcestershire Transformation Plan	Senior Manager – Children and Young People’s Mental Health - NHS

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Working Together

Improving the lives of children and young people

in Worcestershire

Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2023-2026

DRAFT



**Herefordshire and
Worcestershire**



Document Control

Version Control

Version	Who	Date	Amendments
0.1	NaJo	06.07.21	Draft to Stakeholders
0.2	SaWi	31.08.22	Minor amendments - draft to stakeholders
0.3	MeBa	30.10.22	Minor amendments following September partnership board
0.4	RaWa	04.11.22	Minor amendments – comments from stakeholders
0.5	MeBa	28.12.22	Minor amendments – comments from stakeholders
0.6	SaWi	17.01.23	Governance and delivery plan P 16 including input from stakeholders
0.7	SaWi	6.02.23	Inclusion definition added as appendix 1 Delivery Plan outcomes added
0.8	MeBa	14.03.23	Reference to National SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan.
0.9	SaWi	14.03.23	Added Worcestershire Carers Partnership to Governance Chart and updated outcome measures.
0.10	MeBa	24.03.23	Amendments and update following March Partnership Board
0.11	MeBa	03.05.23	Update for lead persons on associated strategies.

Document Control

Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

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Foreword

Welcome to the Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2023 - 2026.

This updated Strategy will drive an ambitious programme of work overseen by the All-Age Disability and SEND Partnership Board to change how we work with children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers.

We recognise the need for improving our offer and ways of working to ensure the support we provide to families across Worcestershire is more effective and meets the needs of all children and young people with SEND. This will enable them to be truly seen and respected as individuals and to be the best they can be.

We have implemented a new Quality Assurance Framework in SEND. This is now enabling us, across our multi-agency SEND partnership, to have a regular overview, not only of key performance indicators, but also of the experiences of parents and carers and the quality of the assessments and plans created. We have received some very positive feedback, but we recognise this is not the experience of all parents and carers and we remain committed to making it the experience for all.

Parents and carers are critical to the success of this Strategy and our All-Age Disability and SEND Partnership Board will continue to work with them to support the goals for their children to enable them to grow into independent adults that are given the opportunity to be able to make positive contributions to society.

Through our SEND Parent Stakeholder Group, we are engaging with a range of organisations to access a wider community of views and experiences, to take forward and to represent in SEND services.

We will continue to work closely with our schools, colleges, and early years settings to provide children and young people with SEND the best support possible, ensuring that they receive a good quality level of education, whilst also feeling included in their local community.

We need to recognise and build on our strengths that work well for families. This Strategy sets out our partnership duties and will be delivered through an action plan that will be overseen by the All-Age Disability and SEND Partnership Board.

We will review the Strategy Action Plan on an annual basis to ensure we remain focused on the right things and improve outcomes for all children and young people with SEND in Worcestershire.

Cllr Tracey Onslow
Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education

INTRODUCTION

Worcestershire is ambitious for all children and young people and has set out a challenging agenda through its Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2022- 2024: 'Putting children at the heart of everything we do'. Taking the lead from the CYPP, the vision is for 'Worcestershire to be a wonderful place for all children and young people to grow up'. We believe it is important that all children and young people:

- Have the best start in life.
- Are safe from harm.
- Can access emotional health, wellbeing, and mental health support.
- Have access to the right education, health, and social care intervention.

In Worcestershire we recognise the significant challenge in ensuring these aims are met for our children and young people (CYP) with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and are committed to ongoing improvements to realise this aspiration. We believe that every Worcestershire child and young person with SEND matters and should be supported to achieve their potential and enabled to make a positive contribution to society. This requires us to take a proactive approach to inclusion, where the rights of CYP to live and be educated alongside their peers needs to be promoted through the identification and removal of barriers to achieving this aim. All CYP with SEND should have their needs met, as far as possible, in the local community, within local early years providers, schools, further education colleges and workplaces. We also believe that they should have access to high quality provision which ensures good health, care, and educational outcomes including, where possible, living independent lives and contributing positively to the local community.

We know that by working together as partners we can deliver an effective approach for SEND. This will include early identification of need, outcome focused assessment and the right provision at the right time, which will ultimately improve outcomes for our children and young people with SEND in Worcestershire.

On 29 March 2022, the Government published the SEND Review: Right support, right place, right time, a consultation on the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision system in England. The consultation set out proposed reforms to the SEND and alternative provision (AP) system that seek to address the following three key challenges:

- Poor outcomes for children and young people with SEN or in alternative provision.
- Navigating the SEND system and alternative provision is not a positive experience for children, young people, and their families
- Despite unprecedented investment, the system is not delivering value for money for children, young people, and families.

The development of the Worcestershire vision for SEND, changes needed, and priorities reflect the challenges highlighted by the SEND Review and the subsequent SEND and AP Improvement Plan: Right Support, Right Place, Right Time published on March 2nd, 2023.

VISION AND PURPOSE

The consultation activity we have carried out in producing this Strategy has led to agreement of the following vision for SEND:

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.

The purpose of this Strategy is to set out how we plan to deliver this vision through six key priorities. It will drive an ambitious programme of work that will be overseen by representatives of the accountable bodies through the All-Age Disability and SEND Partnership Board which reports to the Worcestershire' Health and Wellbeing Board. The Partnership Board will carefully monitor progress against the Strategy and related action plans which will outline the activity needed to realise our aspirations. We will also ensure that parent, carers, children, and young people are invited to comment on our progress on an annual basis throughout the period covered by the Strategy.

The Strategy will change the ways in which we work with children and young people with SEND and parents/carers. It will involve greater integration of services and co-production of developments that will effectively:

- Identify children and young people with SEND
- Assess and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND, through the Graduated Response and Education Health and Care Needs Assessment for those who need it
- Provide support and services that effectively meet needs and improves outcomes of those with SEND

WHERE ARE WE NOW AND WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

In producing this Strategy, we have reflected on information from the following sources:

- Feedback following the SEND revisit in November 2021
- The Local Area SEND Written Statement of Action
- Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) six-month review in September 2022, and
- User feedback (parent carers, children and young people and educational settings)

We have also ensured that the priorities outlined in this Strategy align with other strategies describing work and developments across the local area partnership.

Impact evaluation

Worcestershire's Local Arrangements for SEND were inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in November 2021. Twelve key concerns were identified in the inspection

undertaken in May 2018. The Local Area was required to produce a Written Statement of Action detailing how these concerns would be addressed. This inspection increased and added to our understanding of our strengths and weaknesses, including the five priorities outlined in the SEND Strategy 2017/21:

- **A Person-Centred Approach** – putting children and young people at the centre of planning and decision making about their own care and support
- **Integration and Operational Delivery** – coordinating services across education, health, and care to improve the Education Health and Care Plan process
- **Early Intervention** - allowing families to be able to access information and support that can be helpful at an early stage as soon as problems or concerns arise
- **Preparation for Adulthood** – creating a whole life approach to improve the personal transition experience and journey to adulthood
- **Workforce Development** – developing a multi-agency workforce that understand SEND and works together to achieve good outcomes

Through impact evaluation we have identified the following principles:

- Commitment to listening to and working with children and young people with SEND and their families to further improve, develop and innovate our SEND Strategy and the delivery of support and services.
- Recovery from the pandemic. We must understand the impact for CYP and continue to adapt to support and prevent lasting effect.
- Taking an all-age disability approach within our SEND Local Offer. This will ensure a seamless experience for CYP from 0-25 with SEND and their families.
- Commitment to the effective and efficient use of resources. This will support early intervention prevent escalation of need and promote inclusion

To enable our joint principles and vision for this Strategy is a co-produced definition of the term **inclusion**. Worcestershire Children First have worked with a range of stakeholders, including children and young people, families, and educational settings to develop a definition of inclusion that is specific for educational settings in Worcestershire – see appendix 1.

Improvements achieved to date and further areas for development for each of the 2017-21 priorities are as follows:

A Person-Centred Approach

Improvements

- Parent carers feel better engaged and informed.
- Professionals embed co-production with parent carers in the design of services and processes impacting on families.
- Improved relationships and joint working with parent carer groups
- Consultation about SEND provision and Strategy.

Areas for development

- Strengthen co-production across all services in education health and social care.
- Support educational settings with parent carer engagement and develop further guidance to support this work.
- Ensure engagement and person-centered approaches with CYP and ensure the voice of the child is central to casework and strategic decision making.

Integration and Operational Delivery

Improvements

- Services work in partnership across the local area to agree priorities for funding and action.
- A joint commissioning Strategy is in place which clearly defines the roles of partners and processes for decision making.
- The Designated Clinical Officer role is well embedded and ensures SEND and health needs of CYP are prioritised.
- Service integration impacting on CYP with SEND has been reviewed and improved through the formation of Worcestershire Children First, Starting Well Partnership and Hereford and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board.
- Improvements in the Education Health Care Needs Assessment process impacting on timeliness and quality.
- Outcomes achieved for CYP by SEND are actively tracked and monitored and actions taken to improve these.

Areas for development

- Deliver commissioning intentions described in Joint Commissioning Strategy through Joint Commissioning Group activity.
- Implement and enhance Joint Commissioning Quality Assurance Framework.
- Improvement of the annual review process for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) including the multiagency response and continue to make improvements to the quality of EHCPs following initial needs assessment.
- Focus on improving attendance of students with SEND where possible.

Early Intervention

Improvements

- Better understanding and monitoring of the 'Graduated Response' described in the SEND Code of Practice (2015) in mainstream schools and partner organisations.
- SEND provision reviewed across education and short breaks to strengthen early intervention and improve outcomes for CYP.

Areas for development

- Implementation of the Exclusions and Alternative Provision plan.
- Further review and improvement of the Preschool Forum to ensure early identification of need and effective multiagency support to settings and families.
- Focus on meeting needs of CYP with autism.
- Coordinated approach to concerns about CYP's mental health in schools.
- Implementation of SEND provision plan to ensure local effective places and provision are available to meet need.

Preparation for Adulthood

Improvements

- Preparation for Adulthood pages on the SEND Local Offer map pathways into adulthood
- Increased joint working between Education, Health and Social Care including the Young Adults Team.
- Publication of Post 16 Graduated Response guidance.
- Improved tracking of outcomes for post-16 learners indicates reduction in young people aged 19-25 who are not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) and increase in uptake of supported internships.

Areas for development

- Improve consistency and breadth of tracking of outcomes for Post 16 young people with SEND.
- Develop the annual review process to have a greater emphasis on Preparation for Adulthood from Year 9.
- Progress an 'All Age Disability' approach to SEND focusing on the experiences of CYP and their families from 0-25.

Workforce Development

Improvements

- Workforce training implemented across SEND services in education, social care, and health.
- SEND Training and Development network undertook needs analysis and planning for educational settings.
- E-Learning modules developed to support understanding of SEND and Inclusion.

Areas for development

- Development and delivery of targeted training packages for educational settings in response to needs analysis, feedback, and evaluation.

- Develop improved approaches to sharing existing effective practice in educational settings through the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) network and Early Years and School Inclusion Forum.
- Creation of SEND champions across social care to support the development of effective SEND practice.
- Continued improvement in understanding of SEND across local area partnership workforce.

User feedback

Since our last Strategy, we have worked closely with parent carers, CYP and partners to understand what needs to change regarding our approach to SEND to improve in Worcestershire. We have embedded co-production in our approach to SEND strategic change and have consulted to agree the priorities for the next three years. As such, we have listened carefully to the experiences of our service users to ensure it is their experiences which determine our next steps.

Parent carer feedback

Since 2020 Worcestershire has surveyed the views of parent carers of children and young people with SEND on an annual basis to understand what is working well and what needs to improve. This adds to our understanding of the priorities for Worcestershire from regular coproduction activity and incidental parent carer feedback.

Analysis has indicated that there are times when parent carers are happy with and appreciative of the support they receive. Positive feedback has been received about different services, settings and professionals across health, social care, and education.

The need for improvement has been identified in the following areas:

- Communication with parent carers, CYP and between agencies including educational settings
- Early intervention and support for families including support for CYP in educational settings and from specialist services.
- Development of more Specialist Provision.
- Understanding by professionals about disabilities and their impact on the children and their families
- Clear information and advice about how to access services and support (Local Offer)
- Inclusive schools and the graduated response
- Timescales and waiting times.
- Co-producing services, systems, and support to meet need

Feedback from educational settings

Feedback has been gathered from educational settings from surveys, this is in addition

to incidental feedback. This feedback has provided information about what is going well and what needs to improve.

What is going well?

- Settings find the Graduated Response guidance clear, concise, and informative.
- Settings feel supported and held to account by Worcestershire Children First (WCF) services and guidance.
- Liaison from partners with SENCOs through networks and regular communication is effective.
- Settings experience opportunities to collaborate, share good practice and shape provision for SEND.
- Communication with the SEND casework team has improved and there is increased support for placements.

Areas for improvement

The following areas have been noted as having improved; however further improvements are needed:

- The SEND training offer has increased and improved however further development opportunities are required in some areas for schools, parent carers and health professionals.
- The SEND Local Offer.
- Communication and coproduction with parent carers.
- Timeliness of the EHC needs assessment process and quality of EHCPs

Further identified improvements needed:

- A focus on long-term sustainability within the SEND Strategy and plans, describing how things link together
- Increased and improved access to the Educational Psychology Service
- Increased support for schools through mental health networks and improvements in CYP's access to appropriate Emotional Well Being and Mental Health Services to meet need.
- Multiagency involvement in annual reviews followed by timely amendments to EHCPs
- Ensuring that funding in educational settings for CYP with SEND is sufficient
- An effective and clearly articulated continuum of provision for CYP with SEND which addresses gaps, celebrates good practice, and ensures provision is made in a timely manner

CYP feedback

To ensure this Strategy is underpinned by the views of those who will be most impacted we engaged with CYP through educational settings to understand their experiences and aspirations. CYP were supported by setting staff to provide their views about education, health, and their communities.

Education

- The majority of CYP like and enjoy going to school and college and feel safe in their settings.
- CYP feel education is important because it helps them build skills and knowledge and allows them to socialise with their peers.
- In addition, CYP with SEND would like education to be a place where they feel supported, included, and accepted, be listened to, and have fun.

Health

- The majority of CYP with SEND felt that health services were able to help them.
- Aspirations of CYP in relation to health were for them to be able to feel good about themselves, to be happy and confident, active, and healthy, to know who to go to for help and feel able to talk to someone.
- They suggested that health services could improve by:
 - Reducing waiting times
 - Increasing awareness of SEND with health professionals
 - Providing key workers

Community

- The majority of CYP with SEND want to and feel included in their community. They generally feel like Worcestershire is a nice place to live and most feel safe.
- Some CYP would like to see a reduction in bullying and criminal behaviour in communities as it makes them feel unsafe.
- CYP take part in a variety of activities in their local communities. The most popular are shopping, seeing family and going to parks.
- Within their communities CYP with SEND also want to feel trusted, respected and included. They want equal opportunities in their communities including access to employment.

Feedback from multi-agency partners (SEND Strategy steering group)

Our multi-agency SEND Strategy steering group have the following aspirations for CYP with SEND:

- To ensure we have effective provision which is timely.
- To work together and collaborate to ensure processes are simple and consistent
- To communicate with parent carers and families throughout their journey
- To offer clarity to young people about their preparation for adulthood

- For CYP with SEND to feel safe and valued in their communities and learning environments as they make a positive contribution as citizens
- To ensure transition points for CYP are smooth
- To enable CYP to live and learn in their local communities wherever possible
- To continue to embed coproduction and ensure the child's voice is central to our decision making
- We support value and address diversity of children in the criminal justice system who have SEND needs.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Based on our self-evaluation and stakeholder engagement in Worcestershire our strategic priorities are to ensure that:

- Identification and assessment of SEND is timely and effective
- There is sufficient and effective SEND provision
- There is awareness and understanding of SEND within local communities
- Outcomes for young people with SEND are improved as a result of effective planning, preparation for adulthood and better coordination of service delivery to ensure positive transitions as they progress through their education
- CYP with autism achieve positive outcomes and the support required to enable this is in place
- Emotional health and wellbeing is actively promoted for CYP with SEND and their families and effective targeted and specialist support is available for those CYP at risk of, or experiencing difficulties

How will we achieve these priorities?

Identification and assessment of SEND is timely and effective

Our development work in the next three years aims to ensure that effective identification and assessment of SEND takes place as early as possible, so that appropriate support can be put in place, enabling CYP to achieve the best possible outcomes. ***We will achieve this by:***

- Monitoring waiting times for professional assessments through our SEND Strategy board and putting in place robust recovery plans where there is an impact on early identification of needs.
- Focusing on identification and assessment of CYP with social emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) through our exclusions and alternative provision implementation plan.
- Embedding the mental health support team approach, encouraging schools to participate in senior mental health lead training and expanding our mental health leads networks to include all phases of education.
- Improving our care needs assessment pathways for children with disabilities.

- Ensuring that annual reviews for CYP with EHCPs accurately identify needs as they grow and develop.
- Working with educational settings and other professionals to ensure that effective practice in early intervention using the assess plan do review cycle is shared, understood, and embedded.
- Coproducing guidance and information for parent carers so that they understand how SEND is identified and assessed and how and when they should ask for help if they are concerned about their child.
- Identifying and tracking children in the youth justice system to ensure that information is shared in a timely manner, that needs are known and met and there is effective planning.
- Strengthening links between our approaches to early help and SEND to improve our identification and assessment of need.
- Providing the right support at the right time.
- Co-design early childhood identification and support to ensure families are supported at the right time with the right community and professional support

There is sufficient and effective SEND provision

Our strategic approach over the next three years aims to improve existing and develop new provision for CYP with SEND. This provision will improve outcomes for learners, offer value for money and ensure CYP are able to live and learn in their local communities wherever possible. This approach relies on CYP being able to access the right provision at the right time and is dependent on a shared understanding of our SEND local offer. ***We will achieve this by:***

- Implementing our SEND provision plan which considers the need for specialist placements for CYP with EHCPs.
- Updating our SEND joint strategic needs assessment and SEND sufficiency report annually and ensuring these are understood by stakeholders including parent carers.
- Embedding and refining our approach across education, health, and social care to joint commissioning for CYP with SEND through our Joint Commissioning Strategy.
- Establishing regular and effective good practice sharing between educational settings and partner organisations.
- Ensuring short breaks and community activities for CYP with SEND meet need and promote inclusion.
- Implementing placement plans for CYP accessing specialist education placements to improve monitoring of outcomes and to inform action planning for CYP as their needs change and they require increased or decreased support.
- Focusing on improving attendance of CYP with SEND in educational settings through agreed multi-agency pathways and decision making.
- Ensure the Family Hub approach and early childhood services provide access to information, advice, and guidance to support babies and young children with additional needs.

There is awareness and understanding of SEND within local communities

Worcestershire aims to ensure our CYP with SEND grow up in inclusive communities working together to create social cohesion. A socially cohesive community is defined as one which 'works towards the well-being of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalisation, creates a sense of belonging, promotes trust, and offers its members the opportunity of upward social mobility.' In the next three years. ***We will achieve this by:***

- Ensuring information relating to community activities and short breaks for CYP is easily available, meets need and promotes inclusion.
- Working at a district level to ensure community safety initiatives and leisure facilities ensure CYP with SEND feel safe and included.
- Increasing employment opportunities for CYP with SEND as they prepare for adulthood and move out of education.
- Working with housing providers to ensure that safe and welcoming living opportunities are available within local communities.
- Ensuring that the provision for children is effective.

Outcomes for young people with SEND are improved as a result of effective planning, preparation for adulthood and better coordination of service delivery to ensure positive transitions as they progress through their education

As CYP with SEND grow and develop, they and their families are likely to experience several transitions between educational settings. Our aspiration is that these transitions are seamless, and that new provision builds on previous support and outcomes through careful information sharing and planning which is responsive to individual needs. From Year 9 (when CYP reach age 14), all planning and provision for SEND must include a focus on preparing for adulthood. Approaches need to be better coordinated to ensure that transitions from children to adults' services are smooth and planned well in advance. ***We will achieve this by:***

- Refreshing our guidance and support offer to EY settings, schools, and colleges regarding effective transition between educational settings.
- Making decision making processes about educational placements for CYP with EHCPs more transparent and ensuring that the lived experience of families of these decisions is as positive as possible.
- Ensuring that information about access to services for CYP with SEND is clear on the SEND Local Offer.
- Reviewing the experiences of transitions between services supporting CYP with SEND with parent carers and CYP.
- Embedding longer term planning for CYP into processes.
- Strengthening person centered planning across services working with CYP with SEND from Year 9 upwards.
- Developing and describing Preparation for Adulthood pathways by focusing on outcomes in four key areas:

- Independent living
 - Employment
 - Community inclusion
 - Living healthily
- Improving transition and annual reviews for CYP with EHCPs in Year 9 and above to ensure they include effective and responsive planning for adulthood based on young people's aspirations.
 - Ensuring there are robust pathways and processes in place with local authority adult social care to ensure timely assessment of need as highlighted in the Care Act 2014.
 - Improving transitions between health services as young people move into adulthood and reviewing commissioned services to ensure they meet the health needs of young people with SEND from the age of 18.
 - Ensuring there is consistent understanding and implementation of the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberties duties across professionals working with CYP with SEND.

CYP with autism achieve positive outcomes and the support required to enable this is in place

Over the next three years we aim to ensure that we better understand and overcome the barriers to CYP with autism achieving good outcomes as active participants in education, families, and communities. This will involve working closely with families, education settings and support services to understand our current strengths and to identify and make changes where we need to improve. ***We will achieve this by:***

- Ensuring there is alignment between the priorities in Worcestershire's All Age Autism Strategy with the National Strategy for Autistic Children, Young People and Adults, and the transforming care agenda.
- Improving and clarifying the intervention pathway for CYP with autism and emotional health and wellbeing needs across universal, targeted and specialist services.
- Improving and clarifying the autism pathway in adults' social care.
- Working with Schools and settings to support them to achieve the Autism Friendly Schools Standard to ensure they have a whole school approach to CYP with autism.
- Ensure clear and effective support for early childhood diagnosis and support.

Emotional health and wellbeing is actively promoted for CYP with SEND and their families and effective targeted and specialist support is available for those CYP at risk of, or experiencing difficulties

As we move on from the Covid-19 pandemic, our ongoing priority is to ensure that the emotional health and well-being needs of CYP are met. We recognise the need to promote good mental health for CYP with SEND within their educational settings, families, and

communities. ***We will achieve this by:***

- Acknowledging the importance of CYP's emotional health and wellbeing post pandemic and developing and improving universal, targeted and specialist support in response to these changing needs.
- Developing 'place-based' partnerships as part of the development of Integrated Care arrangements.
- Implementing Herefordshire and Worcestershire's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Analysing the impact of mental health support for CYP with SEND and using this information to develop priorities for improvement and joint commissioning.

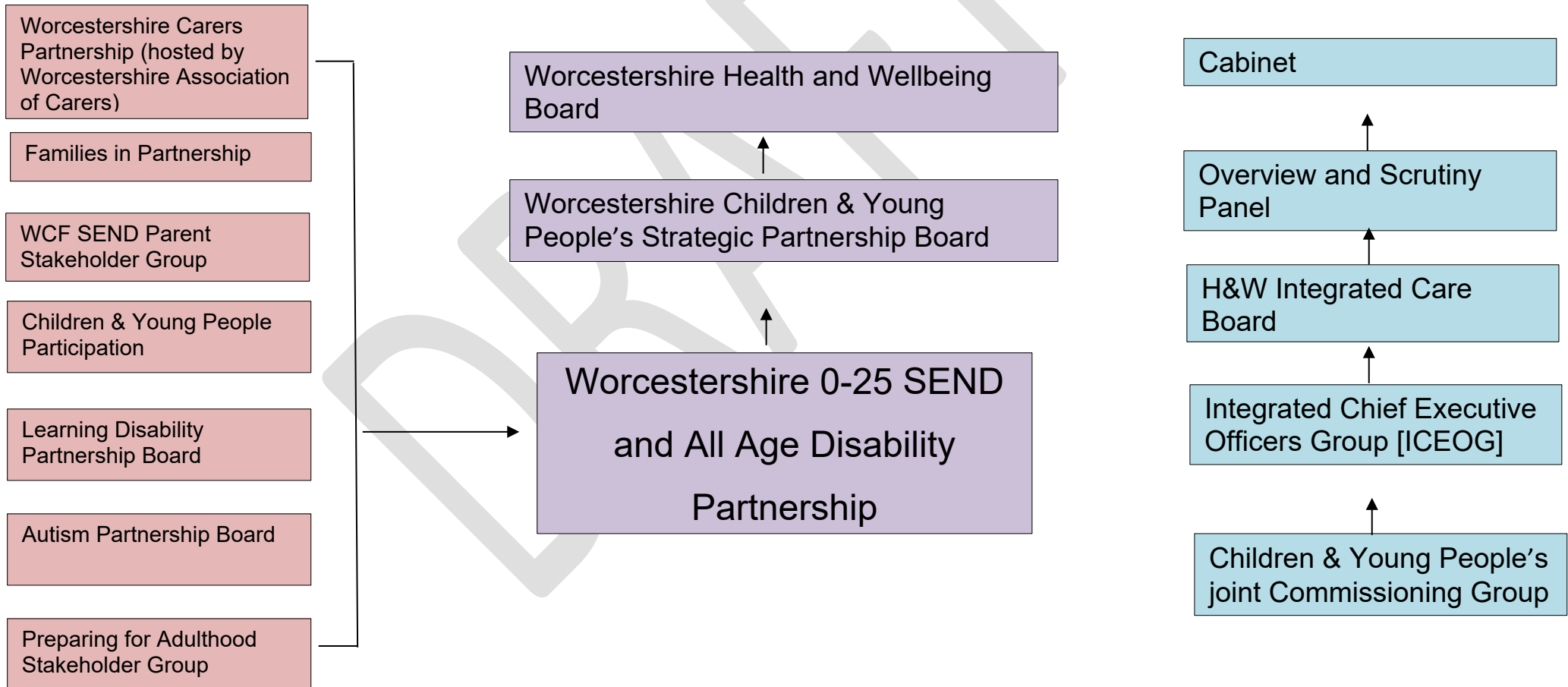
HOW DO WE KNOW IF THIS STRATEGY IS BEING IMPLEMENTED AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND HOW WILL WE REVIEW THIS? (GOVERNANCE AND MONITORING)

The SEND and All Age Disability Partnership Board will oversee the implementation of this Strategy and review annually the Delivery Plan. Board meetings will include regular monitoring of the Key Performance Indicators, evaluation including child young person and family voice and experiences and impact of the actions and activity provided by Delivery Leads that assist in implementing this Strategy.

GOVERNANCE

Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational needs and Disabilities [SEND] 2023-2026 Governance

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Worcestershire SEND Strategy (2023 - 2026) DELIVERY PLAN
SEND STRATEGY PRIORITIES

Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Priority 6
Identification & Assessment of SEND is timely and effective	There is sufficient and effective SEND provision	There is awareness and understanding of SEND within local communities	Outcomes for young people with SEND are improved as a result of effective planning, preparation for adulthood and better coordination of service delivery to ensure positive transitions as they progress through their education	CYP with autism achieve positive outcomes and the support required to enable this is in place	Emotional health and wellbeing is actively promoted for CYP with SEND and their families and effective targeted and specialist support is available for those CYP at risk of, or experiencing difficulties

TRANSFORMATION PLANS AND THEMED STRATEGIES THAT ARE ADDRESSING THE SEND STRATEGY PRIORITIES

1	2	3	4	5
<p>Partnership Review of Pre-School Forum and Pre School-Assessment (2022/23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years children in any part of the County consistently have needs identified • An operating model of nursery assessment that reaches children in a consistent way and promotes inclusion 	<p>Accelerated Progress Plan: Mainstream Inclusion Quality of EHCP's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure an effective inclusion offer and training offer is available and taken up by education settings and partner agencies • Timescales of completion of EHC Needs Assessments 	<p>Herefordshire and Worcestershire CYP Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Local Transformation Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to services including waiting times to diagnostic services • Mental Health Support Teams in Schools Programme • Improve access to diagnostic services and support 	<p>Not in Employment, Education or Training [NEET] Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the most vulnerable • Reduce young people who have an EHCP and are NEET • Supported Internships • Youth Employment 	<p>Worcestershire County Council's School Organisation Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual specialist education sufficiency report and plan for delivery of new or different provision • SEND Specialist Provision Plan: Capacity and need for mainstream autism bases

<p>Attendance Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions to improve attendance for children with SEND Support and EHCPs 	<p>Learning Disability Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Place to Live, a Home • Communities which Include Everyone • Purposeful Days • Being Healthy, Body and Mind • Life Changes • Being Safe • The Right Support for Family Carers 	<p>Autism Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving understanding and acceptance of autism within society • Improving autistic children and young people's access into education and support positive transitions into adulthood • Supporting more autistic people into employment • Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people • Building the right support in the community • Improving support in criminal and youth justice systems • Staying safe 	<p>All Age Carers Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised and valued • A life of my own • Supported to be physically and mentally well • Staying Safe 	<p>Early Help Strategy 2022- 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed Early Help across all agencies, partners and our workforce • Engagement of parents/ carers/ children and young people in the multi-agency early help offers of help and support • The development of a coherent start for life offer for all families. • An effective Holiday Activity and Food programme for children with SEND • The development of Family Hubs and co-located services.
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OUTCOME MEASURES

Outcome Measure 1	Outcome Measure 2	Outcome Measure 3	Outcome Measure 4	Outcome Measure 5
<p>Partnership Review of Pre-School Forum and Pre School-Assessment (2022/23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Offer that describes how children under 5 have their needs identified and how needs are met Increase the % of EY with first time EHCPs going into mainstream reception as they transfer to statutory schooling 	<p>Accelerated Progress Plan: Mainstream Inclusion Quality of EHCP's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Schools actively involved in the EEF (Education endowment foundation) project - making a difference for pupils with SEND % of EHCP decisions made in 16 weeks (minus exceptions) % of EHCPs issues within 20 weeks. Increase the % of children with new EHC Plans that are placed in mainstream schools 	<p>Herefordshire and Worcestershire CYP Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Local Transformation Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesigned pathways for assessment and diagnostics Improved feedback from Children, Young People and their families Completion of wave 8 of the programme and wave 9 and 10 project plans accepted by NHSE Meeting national targets and standards for access and waiting times 	<p>Not in Employment, Education or Training [NEET] Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the Numbers of young people with EHCPs who become NEET aged 16-24 Grow the number of supported internships in the county – baseline of 45 from 2020/21 to 90 by 2025 Ensure all SEND Schools and mainstream secondary meet the number of assigned Provider encounters for young people as measured by the Careers and Enterprise Company (Provider Access legislation) 	<p>Worcestershire County Council's School Organisation Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the % of new CYP going to into independent provision Decrease the number of children awaiting a specialist placement who are not on a school roll Decrease the number of children awaiting a specialist placement who are on a school roll following a review that has confirmed specialist placement is needed
<p>Attendance Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve overall attendance for CYP with EHCP's Improve overall attendance for CYP with SEND Support Reduce Severe absence for children with EHCP's Reduce Severe absence for children with SEND Support 	<p>Learning Disability Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone should be able to live in a place they feel is their home, which is suitable for their individual needs and where they feel safe. People with Learning Disabilities should be able to contribute to and be fully part of society, whether through community activities, 	<p>Autism Strategy</p> <p>Success measures for CYP will be updated by the end of Q2 2023/24.</p>	<p>All Age Carers Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Carers are recognised and supported in their caring role Young Carers are recognised and supported in their caring role Success measures will be described through the Local Area Joint Commissioning Group and WCP. 	<p>Early Help Strategy 2022- 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the % of training undertaken by individual agencies Impact of the Early Help in the community events. Take up of the Holiday Activity and Food programme for children with SEND Numbers of Family Hubs and co-located services.

	volunteering or paid employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want people with Learning Disabilities to have a positive experience of major life changes, including the transitions from childhood to adulthood. 			
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Associated Strategy	Lead person
Partnership Review of Pre-School Assessment	Sarah Wilkins/Mel Barnett
Accelerated Progress Plan	Mel Barnett
School Organisation Plan	Sarah Wilkins
NEET Strategy	Judy Gibbs
Attendance Strategy	Sarah Wilkins
EH Strategy	Liz Altay
Learning Disability Strategy	Fran Kelsey
Autism Strategy	Laura Westwood/Bernadette Louise
All Age Carer Strategy	Sarah Rothwell
Herefordshire & Worcestershire Transformation Plan	Anne-Marie Dolan

NEXT STEPS

An action plan describing the activity, timelines and outcomes for the actions needed to progress these priorities will be developed. This plan will clearly indicate how we will measure the success of our activity and the awareness raising and workforce development which will be put in place for priority areas. The action plan will reference aligned strategies, which will provide more detail regarding the context and ways of working. The SEND and All Age Disability Partnership Board will oversee the implementation of this Strategy and report annually to stakeholders on progress against the action plan. This will be informed by self-evaluation, stakeholder feedback, monitoring, and analysis of data.

DEFINITIONS / GLOSSARY

All-age Disability Service: The number one priority for Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Children First is for children and young people within the County to have the best outcomes in life. This includes those who face the additional challenges of having a disability. The All-age Disability Service seeks to improve both the experiences of support and co-ordination, along with improved outcomes through a joined up 'offer' for children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs.

Annual review: The review of an EHCP which the Local Authority must make as a minimum every 12 months.

Assess, Plan, Do, Review: Also known as the Graduated Response, this is a guide which enables educational settings to plan and implement support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

Autism: Autism is a developmental disability affecting how people communicate and interact with those around them. Autistic people may have difficulties with social communication/interaction, display repetitive and restrictive behaviour, display, and over/under sensitivity, have highly focused interests, have anxiety, and shutdowns/meltdowns.

Care Quality Commission: The CQC registers, monitors, inspects, and regulates health and adult social care services in England. They ensure services meet government standards for quality and safety.

Co-production: Co-production is a way of working which builds on the strengths of families, communities, and services, and involves everyone from the beginning as equal partners. Worcestershire Children First are committed to working in partnership with families, and other agencies, to create effective services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

DCO: Designated Clinical Officer: The officer supports Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group to meet its statutory duties for children and young people with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities. They also support the agreement of health services as part of an Education, Health, and Care Plan.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS): These relate to those aged 18 or over, who lack

mental capacity, and require treatment or care through a care home or hospital. If a person required continuous supervision and control, then a DoLS authorisation may be required, and can be applied for by a managing authority such as the hospital or care home.

Early help: Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.

Early Years Provider: A provider of early education places for children under five years of age. This can include state-funded and private nurseries as well as child minders.

Education, Health, and Care plan (EHCP): An EHCP details the education, health and social care support that is to be provided to a child or young person who has SEN or a disability. It is drawn up by the Local Authority after an EHC needs assessment of the child or young person has determined that an EHC plan is necessary, and after consultation with relevant partner agencies.

EHCNA: Education, Health, and Care Needs Assessment. Worcestershire Children First will carry out an EHCNA when more specialist help is required to support children with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities. The assessment will be turned into an Education, Health, and Care Plan.

Emotional Health and Wellbeing: The government established a task force in 2015 to promote, protect and improve children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. In collaboration with the CCG Worcestershire Children First developed the transformation plan to improve services within the County, providing advice, support, and training.

Exclusions and Alternative Provision Implementation Plan: Local and national context highlighted the need for Worcestershire Children First to carry out a review of their approach to exclusions and the use of alternative provision settings. As a result of this review the Implementation Plan was created with a focus on five key areas: Exclusion prevention by mainstream schools, The exclusions and AP pathway, Communication and collaboration between settings, Integrated service approach, and Equity and strategic clarity in commissioning arrangements and processes.

Further Education (FE) College: A college offering continuing education to young people over the compulsory school age of 16. The FE sector in England includes general further education colleges, sixth form colleges, specialist colleges and adult education institutes.

Graduated Response: A model of action and intervention in early education settings, schools, and colleges to help children and young people who have special educational needs. The approach recognises that there is a continuum of special educational needs and that, where necessary, increasing specialist expertise should be brought to bear on the difficulties that a child or young person may be experiencing.

Health and Wellbeing Board: A Health and Wellbeing Board acts as a forum where local commissioners across the NHS, social care, and public health work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities. The boards are intended to increase democratic input into strategic decisions about health and wellbeing services, strengthen working relationships between health and social care and encourage integrated commissioning of health and social care services.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy: This Strategy sets out how Worcestershire County Council

will support Worcestershire residents to be healthier, live longer, and have a better quality of life. Targeted at those who's health is currently the poorest.

Here2Help: Here2Help is a community action scheme which was originally dedicated to helping those in need of support during the CV-19 pandemic. The service has been expanded offering advice, support, and help to organisations and people of all ages within Worcestershire.

HWHCT: Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust. The main provider of mental health and learning disability services across both counties, across a range of settings. Additionally, they provide community hospital, neighbourhood teams, and community nursing services across Worcestershire.

Integrated Care Board (ICB): An integrated care board (or ICB) is a statutory NHS organisation which is responsible for developing a plan for meeting the health needs of the population, managing the NHS budget and arranging for the provision of health services in a geographical area. ICBs were legally established on 1 July 2022, replacing clinical commissioning groups (or CCGs), taking on the NHS planning functions previously held by CCGs (as well as absorbing some planning roles from NHS England).

Joint Approach to Commissioning: The NHS, Worcestershire Children First, and Worcestershire County Council have adopted a coproduction approach to commissioning SEND provision. This applies to the design, development, and commissioning of new services, projects, and programmes, working with and abiding by the principles outlined within the Worcestershire SEND Charter.

Joint Strategy Needs Assessment: This is a continuous process which provides information on health and well-being to support decision making. The process improves health and well-being, reduces inequalities, and determines the actions local authorities, the NHS and other partners will make to best meet people's health and social care needs.

Local authority: An organisation responsible for the delivery of public services, and for providing facilities within a certain area.

Mental Capacity Act: The Mental Capacity Act 2005 provides a legal framework to act and make decisions on behalf of those, aged 16 and over, who lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions in relation to care and treatment.

NEET: Not in Education, Employment, or Training. It is the law for 16-year-olds leaving school to participate in further education or training until the age of 18. The Post-16 NEET Team at Worcestershire Children First offer advice, guidance, and support to those young people who are currently NEET.

Ofsted: Ofsted inspect and regulate services who provide training, education, and care within England. Their aim is to promote improvement, ensuring high quality service is provided to children and young people.

Preparation for adulthood: As part of the Worcestershire Children First SEND Strategy there is a focus on Preparation for adulthood, with the aim of creating a whole life approach to improve the personal transition experience and journey to adulthood. A multi-agency approach has been taken to offer a wide range of support to children and young people with SEND to

enable them to achieve their ambitions.

Pre-School Forum: Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities are sometimes referred to Pre-School Forum for additional support. This could be through extra Early Years provision, specialist placement, transition support when moving to school, or through the implementation of an EHCP.

SEMH: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health. This is a type of special educational need where children have difficulties managing their emotions and behaviour due to Social, Emotional, and/or Mental Health needs.

SENCo: Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. Every school in the UK is required to have a teacher responsible for special educational needs to enable children and young people to achieve the best educational outcomes.

SEND: Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

SEND Code of Practice: 0-25 years: The code of practice provides guidance to organisations who work with and/or provide support to children and young people (0-25 years) with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. It outlines legal requirements and statutory duties for schools, academies, early years providers and local authorities which focuses on a family-centered system of care and education and covers four broad areas of support: Communication and interaction, Cognition and learning, Social, emotional, and mental health, and Sensory and/or physical needs.

SEND Local Offer: Local authorities in England are required to set out in their Local Offer information about provision they expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people in their area who have SEN or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plans. Local authorities must consult locally on what provision the Local Offer should contain.

SEND Sufficiency Report: Worcestershire Children First have a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficiency of school places available to meet the needs of all children and young people within the County, including those with SEND. To ensure the best educational outcomes for all children and young people the report reviews historic demand for school places. This enables future demand to be assessed and monitored to ensure correct provision is in place, to continue to best meet the needs of all children and young people within Worcestershire.

SEND Written Statement of Action: During the 2018 SEND inspection inspectors identified that children and young people with SEND were not being provided with the quality of service and support they are entitled to. In collaboration with the CCG, Worcestershire Children First produced the SEND Written Statement of Action (an action plan) outlining how Worcestershire will tackle the areas of weakness identified during the inspection.

Short breaks: Short breaks provide families of children and young people with disabilities a break from their caring responsibilities. A short break could last a few hours, a day, an evening, overnight, or for a weekend, and can take place within or away from the home. They can range from an afterschool club to an overnight stay with a carer or at a short break unit.

Transforming Care: The NHS England's commitment to improving the care of people with Learning Disabilities, and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder. The aim is to reduce people being

admitted to hospital when they don't need to be, and to encourage early and effective planning to support those leaving hospital.

WCF: Worcestershire Children First. Worcestershire Children First is a not-for-profit company which is 100% owned by Worcestershire County Council. The company is responsible for the delivery of services to children and young people across Worcestershire.

DRAFT

Appendix 1 – definition of Inclusion

In all educational settings in Worcestershire every child and young person has access to the educational provision which provides them with equity of access to the best opportunities, so they are able to achieve, thrive and fulfil their potential. Children and young people learn together, regardless of difficulties or differences they may have, and settings respond to the diverse needs of all individuals to enable this to happen within a nurturing environment where emotional wellbeing is a priority to give them the best life chances.

Every individual in all our educational settings is valued and every person in the educational community feels a sense of belonging and feel they are seen, heard, and acknowledged. All children and young people in our settings have their needs met through quality first teaching, differentiation of delivery, appropriately planned learning objectives, an accessible curriculum and other reasonable adjustments enabling every child and young person to make progress through the curriculum regardless of their aptitude, ability or SEND.

In Worcestershire educational settings, we ensure that we identify and provide effective early support for children and young people identified with additional needs and this support is additional to and different from that which already available, based on need and not labels. There is a clear process in all settings for addressing and responding to the diversity of needs of all learners through increasing participation in learning, cultures and communities and reducing exclusion from education in all its forms. All those involved with children and young people work collaboratively to enable this to happen.

Inclusion in Worcestershire is when all the above is delivered in adherence with the SEND Code of Practice, The Children and Families Act 2014, The Equality Act 2010, Working Together to Safeguard Children and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022) and The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

6 JULY 2023

DELIVERY OF THE ALL-AGE CARERS STRATEGY FOR WORCESTERSHIRE

Summary

1. The Panel will receive an update on the delivery of the Worcestershire All Age Carers strategy. The representatives invited for this discussion are:
 - The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families, Adult Social Care, and Health and Well Being, Worcestershire County Council
 - The Strategic Director, People, the Assistant Director, People and Commissioning and the Commissioning Manager, Carers, Worcestershire County Council
 - The Director for All Age Disability, Worcestershire Children First
 - The Managing Director, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB).
 - The Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

Background

2. On 15 February 2022 the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board approved the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System Commitment to Carers; and the All-Age Carer's Strategy for Worcestershire (2021 to 2026). This paper provides an update on actions within the first year of the strategy.
3. To deliver the strategy, extensive consultation and co-production took place in 2021 and included a Mini Carer survey (73 people); Online stakeholder survey (47) and Focus groups (10 groups >76 carers). The findings from an NHS digital survey conducted in October 2021 also fed into the strategy.
4. The work was underpinned by specific legislation which includes Care Act; NHS long term plan; Health and Social Care Act; Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act; Children Act; Children and Families Act.
5. The Vision of the strategy is: "*All carers include adult, young adult and young carers and parent carers will be recognised and valued by the wider community and statutory agencies in Worcestershire for the support and care they provide to vulnerable adult, children and young people.*" And the mission is to ensure that "*everything key partners do is informed by Carers and people with lived experience of care and support.*" There are approximately 53,000 carers in Worcestershire (2021 census). Whilst this is a reduction in the overall numbers of carers from the 2011 census the complexity of the caring role and the number of hours spent caring

has increased. The number of people that are caring for 20-plus hours and 50-plus hours have both increased.

6. The four key outcomes for Carers in Worcestershire are identified as being:
 - To feel recognised and valued
 - Enabled to have a life of their own
 - Supported with their physical and mental health, and wellbeing
 - Staying safe
7. The pandemic has made these key outcomes even more important. There are also other key issues that Carers shared, such as financial concerns, loneliness and isolation and lack of breaks. Other 'hot topics' were, maintaining employment, understanding the cared for's condition, and coming to terms with it, maximising income, contingency and future planning, a whole family approach to assessments for the cared for, and assessments specifically for the carer. This feedback was gained from the co-production carers' focus groups and informs the action plan which underpins the delivery of the strategy making a 'real' difference to Carers lives. Please refer to appendix 4 Stakeholder and Carers Feedback and Engagement Findings of the [All age carers strategy 2022](#).

Understanding carer priorities in Worcestershire

8. The needs and aspirations of carers was sought through the co-production and engagement work completed in 2021. Carers informed all the priorities of the all-age carer's strategy with 588 responses to various forms of co-production, engagement, and survey responses. This included carers of people with mental health needs, autism, young adults, stroke survivors, dementia and young carers and young adult carers.
9. The detail of the priorities and tasks relating to the carer's strategy are detailed on pages 20 - 21 of the all age carers strategy 2022, and the priorities are being implemented through the life of the strategy. A Carers Action Plan, which is monitored by the Carers Partnership, is a 'living' document which is developed to reflect the needs of carers and identifies actions being undertaken to deliver the strategy.

Delivery of the Strategy and Governance

10. The Council has established a working group including the contracted Carer support providers (Your Support Services and Worcestershire Association of Carers) to implement the all-age carers strategy and the Commitment to Carers and feeds back quarterly to the Worcestershire Carers Partnership and annually to the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board.
11. The purpose of the Worcestershire Carers Partnership is to:
 - a. Monitor the implementation of the Worcestershire All Age Carers Strategy
 - b. Discuss and address issues of common concern to carers in Worcestershire
 - c. Raise awareness and improve understanding of the role carers play
 - d. Exchange ideas, strengthen skills and share examples of good practice

12. The Carers partnership has representation from:

- a. Carer Forums and Reference Groups (including Parent Carers, Young Carers and Young Adult Carers)
- b. Worcestershire's Carer Organisations: e.g., Carers Action Worcestershire Consortium, Carers Careline (Redditch), Worcestershire Association of Carers, Worcestershire Parent Carer Community, Worcestershire Young Carers, JIGSAW - Worcestershire Mental Health Relative & Carer's Support Group, plus Families in Partnership (Worcestershire's Parent Carer Forum)
- c. Strategic Partnership Boards
- d. Stakeholders from key organisations – e.g., Worcestershire County Council (the Council), Worcester Children First, NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire, Worcestershire Acute Hospital Trust, Herefordshire & Worcestershire Health & Carer Trust, Primary Care Networks, Department for Work and Pensions

13. The Chair of the Carers Partnership is chosen annually and nominates representatives for the Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICS Carer Reference Group and H&W Integrated Care Partnership Assembly. The current Chair is Carole Cumino.

Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report - Progress in delivering the All-Age Carer Strategy

14. There is an annual report to the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board. This first report was presented on 23 May 2023 and is available via this link [[Action Plan Update](#)]

15. Key actions included within the report are:

Carers being recognised and valued

- a. The Integrated Carers Hub was re-commissioned and implemented
- b. Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust Carer's Policy is under review and will include the All-Age Carer's Strategy and the Trust's Commitment to Carers.
- c. Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust and Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust are capturing carer status on electronic records
- d. Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust signed up to Johns Campaign, which supports carers of people with dementia to have the same visiting rights as parents of children

Carers having a life of their own

- e. Worcestershire Association of Carers continued to provide online and in person support and services such as carer training sessions, peer support and assessments
- f. The Carer breaks (replacement care) policy was reviewed and updated in line with views of carers
- g. The Council and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust remained as active members of the Carer Friendly Employers Network (CFEN)

Carers receiving support with their physical and mental health and wellbeing

- h. Carers assessment and reviews consider carers support needs in relation to their physical and mental health and wellbeing
- i. The Peony Room – a space for Carers and Family members was opened by the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. A similar space being explored in Redditch.
- j. The Integrated Carers Hub continued to develop relationships with District Collaboratives to further increase carer awareness and promote joint working.

Supporting carers to stay safe

- k. 3,639 Carers Emergency Cards were issued. The aim of the card is to alert emergency staff that a person is a Carer. The emergency card holds the contact details to keep the cared for safe should anything happen to the carer.
 - l. Worcestershire Association of Carers (WAC) worked with the safeguarding board and Carers Safeguarding Reference Group to issue a leaflet for carers called 'Making safeguarding personal.'
16. The Survey of Adult Carers in England (2021-22) provided information to support how well the Council, Worcestershire Children First (WCF) and partners are delivering services for carers. 44% of respondents are extremely or very satisfied (which is higher than the England average) with the Carer support on offer.
17. Understanding the needs of Carers and ensuring support is available to Carers within Worcestershire is an area the Council and partners have focussed heavily. The Councils [Shaping Worcestershire's Future - Our Plan for Worcestershire](#) recognises Carers and their "*vital role in society and continue to support them by working closely with our partners including the Voluntary and Community Sector*".
18. Sometime carers focus on 'getting the support right for their family member and then it will be right for me.' Carers do not always see the importance of getting the support right for themselves (for example meeting their own mental or physical health needs) for them to maintain their caring role. That is why carer assessments are important to provide the focus on the carer needs. Access to Carer Assessments and wider support is set out below.

Delivery of the Strategy

19. The Council commissions the [Worcestershire Integrated Carers Hub](#). The service provides information, advice, and support. WAC deliver the carers hub on behalf of the council.
20. The Carers Hub is commissioned to deliver information, advice, and support for all carers. This includes, but is not limited to, peer support, training, emergency planning and carer wellbeing sessions.
21. WAC signpost parent carers of children to WCF.

22. Your Support Service (YSS) for children and Young Adults who have a caring responsibility at home. The service aims to raise awareness about young carers and young adult carers across Worcestershire.
23. YSS Worcestershire Young Carers team offers opportunities for young people to take a break from their care role, meet other Young Carers and have fun. Giving them vital respite breaks helps young people to build their confidence and get involved in fun activities.
24. The Integrated Carers Hub also delivers:
 - a. Transition assessments for parent carers (in their own right – where an assessment is requested or it is beneficial to the parent carer) who cares for someone in transition from children’s services to adult social care (e.g., children who are 16- & 17-years old)
 - b. Carer Assessment for adult carers who are caring for an adult
25. Transition assessments for adult/parent carers and young adult carers are delivered under the Care Act 2014. A strength-based approach is used which builds on carers strengths and help available within the community. A ‘whole-family approach’ ensures the assessment takes account of the impact of caring on all family members. Both the Care Act and the Children and Families Act include provision that assessment can be joint where required. One team will take the lead on the assessment. This will be the team that is deemed to be in the best position to meet the needs of the carer
26. The People Directorate delegates its statutory duty for carers assessments to WAC. WAC completed 1900 assessments in the last 12 months.

Parent Carers Assessments within Worcestershire Children First for parent carers of those aged 0-17 years

27. The Children with Disabilities Social Work Team (the Team) undertake Parent Carers assessments as part of the Social Work Assessment.
28. The Team provides services designed to meet the needs of children and young people who have complex disabilities.
29. The Team is one of a range of services that can provide support to children and young people with disabilities and their families. Other services available are those provided by health, education, play and youth services as well as community resources provided by voluntary agencies
30. The Team offers services to those children and young people requiring additional resources in respect of their disability, where the disability has a profound impact on the child or young person’s life.
31. Any assessment will consider the specific needs of parents and other family members in their role as carers.
32. The Team offers services to those children and young people requiring additional resources in respect of their disability, where the disability has a profound impact

on the child or young person's life. Any assessment will consider the specific needs of parents and other family members in their role as carers (this is sometimes known as a parent carer needs assessment).

Working with Partners

33. The Council, WCF and partners have been working together to deliver even better services for Carers. The report on activity was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 23 May 2023 (attached at Appendix 1).

Carers working for Worcestershire County Council

34. The Council is an active member of the [Carer Friendly Employer Network \(CFEN\)](#) in Worcestershire and ensures, as a minimum, as part of end of year work reviews, that staff are asked whether they are a carer. The Council know that 680 self-identified carers work for Council (c25% of the workforce). The information is used to support carers working for the Council.

Purpose of the Meeting

35. The Panel is asked to:

- Consider and comment on the information provided on the delivery of the All-Age Carers strategy (2021 – 2026);
- Agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families, Adult Social Care, and Health and Well Being, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB); and
- Determine whether any further information or scrutiny is required

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – All Age Carers Strategy 2021-2026 update (Health and Wellbeing Board – May 2023) – [Agenda Item 5](#)

Contact Points

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Alison Spall/Alyson Grice, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 846607/844962
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 Health and Wellbeing Board 15th February, 2022](#)

- Carer Friendly Worcestershire - All Age Carers' strategy summary 2021 – 2026.
([Carer Friendly Worcestershire - All Age Carers' strategy](#))

All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.

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