

WORCESTERSHIRE
CHILDREN FIRST



Back to School

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The covid19 context

- March 20 schools closed as physical buildings to all “non vulnerable children and those of critical worker” and a programme of home supported learning began to develop
- Vulnerable children “those open with a social work plan” were able to attend school if the parent/carer wanted them to. During “lock down” the community message was “stay at home if you can”
- Our Covid working protocol phase 1 and 2 took the message back to parents from “encourage” to “expect” your child to attend their school place

School plays an essential part of safety and outcomes

- Prior to the summer holidays we saw 37% of our children on plans attending school
- Child Protection 48%
- Children in Need 33%
- Children Looked After 32%

Vision, Mission and Values



Back to School Project

- Some children and parents will experience barriers and challenges with returning to school.
- A child/young person not returning to school will not, on its own, be a reason for Children's Social Care to undertake an assessment at level 4.
- "Hidden Harm" and to ensure we get a timely and proportionate response into families to identify any risks and to minimise further delay and impact of non-school attendance is also important to us.

Back to School project approach

In scope criteria

- Less than 70% attendance pre Covid
- Non or very little meaningful contact with school during Covid
- Have not returned or not returned with any consistency Sept 20

- Out of scope
- Looked After Children
- Children with an allocated early help or EWO worker
- Those who don't meet the criteria who can access alternative targeted support
- School responsibilities and Barnardo's "See, Hear, Respond"

Our Back to School Offer

- Referrals will be received directly from schools and be triaged
- We will be using the Signs of Safety model of intervention and a bespoke tool.
- Dedicated workers to each child & parent
- Worcestershire Health & Care Trust have developed a programme of on line sessions covering aspects associated with rejection/fear/anxiety of school return
- Support Mentors – Children & Parents

Outcomes and Evaluation

Attendance
at
school

We will track cases against specific interventions provided as part of the project to identify patterns in what worked and what didn't.

We will also track cases referred to the other 2 pathways to measure our success.

Sustained
attendance
at school

We will seek child and parent feedback as part of our evaluation to capture their experience of what worked and why.

Jan 21 we will evaluate impact to see if there is a need for any continuation