

Value Family Life

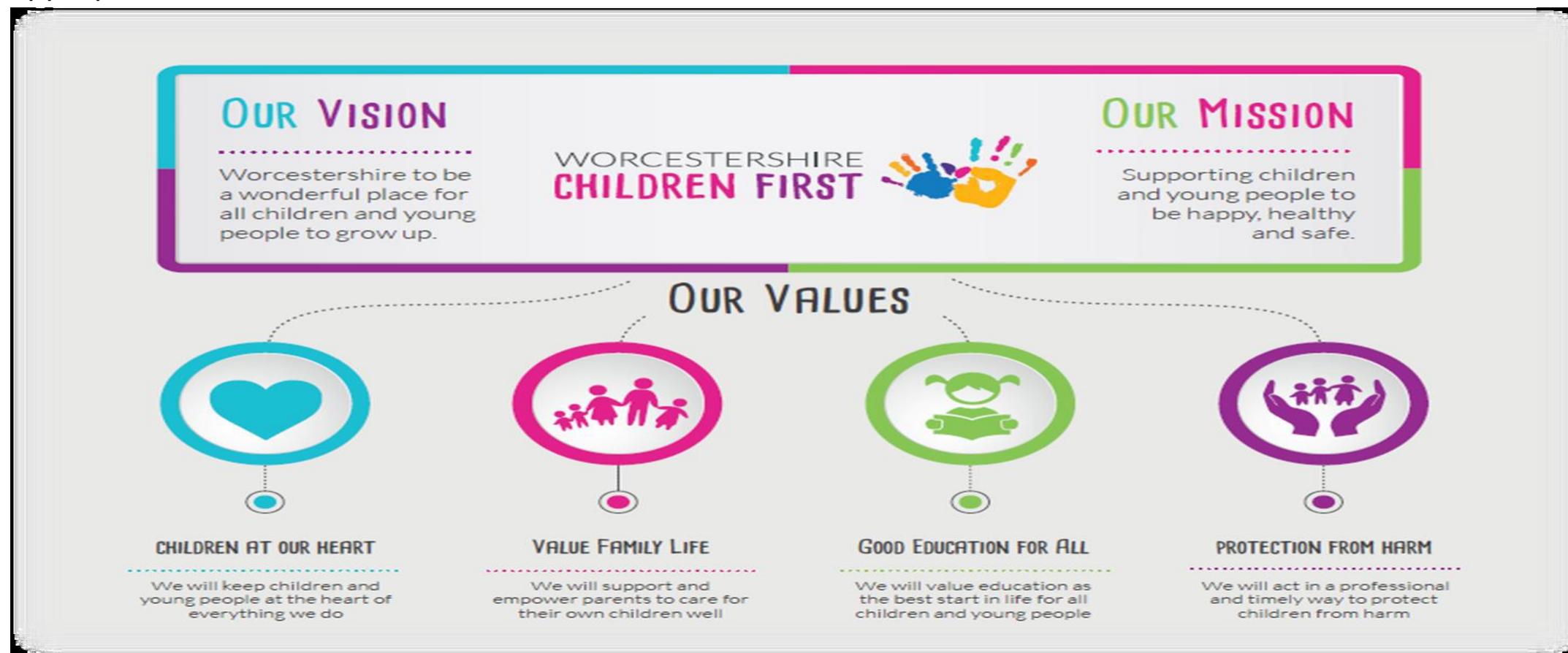


Children at our heart

The development of the Supporting Families First Team is part of the wider vision of Worcestershire Children First.

Placing children at the heart of what we do, valuing family life, seeking good educational outcomes wherever possible by working with families and partner agencies are all key priorities of the team.

Our key aim is to strengthen families, to ensure children can remain living safely at home where it is safe and appropriate to do so.



Meet the Front-Line Team

The service consists of 3 multi-disciplinary Pods covering the North East, North West & Southern areas of Worcestershire

An Advanced Social Work Practitioner who is highly skilled and experienced social worker who holds responsibility for the co-ordination of support and creating plans.

Outreach Workers who provides the most intensive support to our families, focusing on relationships with children families & ensuring the plan moves forward.

Substance Misuse Workers who provides direct one to one support to children/parents or the whole family that focus on abstinence & harm reduction.

A Clinical Lead & 3 Emotional Health & Well-Being Practitioners who deliver cognitive behavioral therapy support to children and their parents.

Youth Mentors who support young people to develop their interests and hobbies, using activity to build relationships in the family and accessing clubs and activities on local communities.

Money Mentor who predominantly works with parents providing debt management advice, reviewing household bills and practical support to deal with courts/housing services/bailiffs/debt management companies.

Supporting Families First Year 1

- The Pilot year ended in January 2021 after our launch on the 20th of January 2020.
- We supported families on a Child in Need basis or where young people were subject to a Child Protection Plan in our pilot year with an age range of 10-18 years.
- We supported 135 children in our pilot year with a gender split of 49% female, 50% male and 1% who did not identify with a gender.
- The Supporting Families First service continues to offer individualised support to both children & their parents.

How did we measure success.

- Supporting Families Firsts key priorities are strengthening families and preventing young people from becoming looked after.
- During the pilot year the Supporting Families First team supported 135 children deemed to be on the "Edge of Care".
- Of those 135 children Supporting Families First recommended and sought agreement for 12 children to Become Looked After.
- This equates to an overall care prevention success rate of 91%.
- We tracked our original cohort of 51 Children who were open to the service at launch date in January 20 to monitor sustainability within our intervention.
- 84% of this original cohort had been prevented from Becoming Looked After, evidencing that families feel more able to manage familial conflict.
- 19 of those children remained closed to social care at the end of Year 1. (37%)

Supporting Families First Team Year 1

- Within our Pilot Year we developed the Worcestershire Webstar, a direct work tool, used to successfully create collaborative plans with children & families.
- The Webstar is underpinned by the vision/values & mission statement of WCF
- We created and launched the Webstar dashboard on the 1st of July 2020 to provide evidence of our interventions outcomes.
- The Worcestershire Webstar is now used within the wider Safeguarding services of WCF after a roll out programme in Feb/April 21. This included briefing events to all frontline Social Work practitioners/managers and admin support.
- We completed 384 Webstars in Year 1 , 234 with Adults & 150 Webstars were completed with children and young people.



What did we learn from the Webstar in our first year.

- 59% of children and 50% of adults felt safer as a result of Supporting Families First Intervention.
 - 69% of children felt healthier.
 - 62 % of children were more engaged in their Education.
 - Within the pilot period 55 % of children and 56 % of adults said they were happier upon ending of our involvement.
 - 48% of children were more connected to their communities.
 - 54% of adults & 62% of children felt emotionally healthier at point of closure.
 - 21% of children said substance use was less of an impact whilst 66% of children told us Substance use was not impacting on their lives.
 - 38% of children said finances had improved at home. For most children this remained static.
- 

What are the comparable measures we used.

- We reviewed the newly accommodated statistics from 19/20 (pre SFF) and compared them with the 20/21 statistics (post SFF).
 - Over quarters 1/2 in 19/20 there were 45 young people (aged 11+) newly accommodated, for the same period (Qtr. 1/2 2020/21), this was 30 young people.
 - This is a reducing figure and is reflective of the SFF care prevention work that was targeted at this age group.
- 

What our partners said.

Cranstoun: Drug & Alcohol Service:

“We can really see the merit in the work you are doing with Mum. There has been reduction in her alcohol usage by 70% since your involvement”.

Senior Mental Health practitioner CAMHS

“Since Supporting Families First became involved with your encouragement, S has engaged with me. Your support package is very positive and has improved communication all round”.

Police, Chief Inspector 3425:

“I wanted to ring you personally to say a big thank for all the work you did yesterday. You went over and above your duties and we appreciate the support under such difficult circumstances”

WCF Group Manager said: Thank you both so much for stepping up and supporting F and his family – You have been instrumental in promoting his welfare and I’m really pleased to see such good practice – keep up the good work.

Youth Offending Team.

“Luke (Youth Mentor) is very passionate, cares a lot and has gone out of his way to do the best for D. D has named Luke as someone in his network he would go to if there was problems”

What are our children & families are telling us:

- “Now my Mum has support she is calmer, and I have people to talk to and it’s helped me to open up about how I am feeling” (Child)
- “ I don’t feel the workers are ticking things off a list, they are very family orientated, they are focusing on what works for us”. (Mother)
- “I would like to say a special thank you to Mark (Money Mentor). I can’t thank Mark enough for his support and that his interaction and relationship building with T ‘has opened up a lot of trust’. Mark is a gem. (Father)
- “Something that has been helpful for me and my husband is we didn't feel judged. It is not a normal thing to do to say you cannot manage anymore and want your child accommodated. We did feel they were kind to us and didn't add to our feelings of guilt.”
- “It was good to have someone to talk to about me and how I felt” (Child)
- “You have been amazing, really supportive and you are the best thing that has come out of the children being on a CP plan as your support has helped us to sort things out and get everything on track” (Mother)