



Date: 6th October 2021

Dear Director of Children's Services

Services Available to Children in Care Placed in Worcestershire by Other Local Authorities

Our vision is for Worcestershire to be a wonderful place for all children and young people to grow up

Worcestershire Children First would like to notify you about the resources and facilities available to Children in Care and young people who may be placed in our district by your Local Authority.

Within this letter, we set out the process on how to notify us when a Child in Care or young person is placed in the Worcestershire district or when their placement arrangements change.

We would appreciate timely notification of any placements within our Local Authority. We also include details about our Virtual School for Children in Care and information about accessing universal services.

Please disseminate this information to relevant professionals within your Social Care Service. We hope that this information will help your professional staff to understand and access the diverse universal services that are available for children and young people in our district.

It would be useful to receive similar information and contact details about services and opportunities available to out of area children in care placed in your local area by other Local Authorities.

Notifications

All notifications of Children in Care placed in Worcestershire should be sent to:

CLANotifications@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Changes of address and notifications of Children in Care leaving Worcestershire should also be sent to this address so we can update our records. Please ensure that notifications highlight any particular-risks or vulnerabilities to assist the professional network within Worcestershire in responding effectively to any issues that might arise.

Making a Referral

The Family Front Door, Initial Contact and Referral Team is the central point for all referrals for children and young people aged 0 to 18 years and living in Worcestershire where there is safeguarding, or child protection concerns for them.

If you have an immediate concern about the safety and welfare of a child, please contact the Family Front Door directly on 01905 822666. You will be required to submit the information on a referral form following this as per the WLSCB procedure.

If you have a child protection concern outside of normal office hours, please contact our out of hours emergency duty team (EDT) telephone 01905 768020.

The Family Hub and Early Help

It is important that families know where to go and get help. We know that where to start or what to ask for can sometimes be a challenge. We have developed this page to give you a range of different types of resources that are available to you online, on the phone or face to face that you can access directly.

Please see our Early Help booklet by clicking on the link below of services across Worcestershire providing Early Help Support, Advice & Guidance to children & families.

[The Family Hub | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Worcestershire Children First Education Services

We provide education support services and training to over 1800 early years settings, schools and post-16 providers in Worcestershire and surrounding local authorities. Please click on the link below for further information.

[Worcestershire Children First Education Services](#)

The Virtual School

Our School aims to promote high aspirations for our children placed in care and previously looked after, to ensure all pupils are given the opportunity to succeed and develop their full potential. We believe that every individual can achieve.

We are a statutory service which exists to support and challenge all those involved in the education of children in care. We work primarily with school age children and use the Personal Educational Plan as a vehicle for raising standards and improving educational outcomes. We also support Post 16 learning and Early Years and have a network of staff supporting colleagues and agencies in these areas.

[The Virtual School | Worcestershire County Council](#)

SEND

Our Local Offer provides information about provision families can expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people who have Special Educational Need (SEN) or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. You can find out about resources, services, support, activities, and events here.

[SEND Local Offer | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Health Services

All children and young people living in the Worcestershire district have access to universal health services such as a GP, Health Visitor or School Nurse.

Herefordshire & Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust also provide a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service which offers a range of services, including Looked After Young People. Within CAMHS there is a Specialist Looked After and Adopted Children (LAAC) Team, which offers therapeutic support to Looked After Young People and their carers.

Please contact 01905 768300 for general enquiries, or professionals can refer to CAMHS.

[I am worried about my Child's mental health | Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust \(hacw.nhs.uk\)](#)

Get Safe – Keeping Children and Young People Safe from Criminal Exploitation

Have you seen a change in their behaviour or routines? Do they have unexplained money, clothing, or gifts? Do you think they maybe being criminally exploited?

If you have an **immediate safeguarding** concern for a child, you must call the police on 999.

If your concern is about activity in the Worcestershire area which you believe **may indicate crimes being committed** e.g., drug dealing or Modern-Day Slavery, please contact the police on 101.

If you wish to discuss a **not immediate safeguarding concern about a child aged 0-18 years**, then please contact our Family Front Door on 01905 822666 during office hours. In emergencies out of hours the number is 01905 768020.

We have collated information on criminal exploitation of children and young people but if you wish to talk to someone, Worcestershire Children First have a dedicated **Get Safe team** who works closely with partner agencies here in Worcestershire. The team is contactable for advice on 01905 845568 or at getsafe@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Worcestershire Youth Justice Service

The team are based at:

Youth Justice Service
Tolladine Road
Worcester
WR4 9NB

Contact number: 01905 732241

[West Mercia Youth Justice Service](#)

I hope that you have found this information useful however if you need further information please visit the Worcestershire Childrens First website.

[Worcestershire Children First \(worschildrenfirst.org.uk\)](http://worschildrenfirst.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Gray
Head of Quality Assurance