

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

14 NOVEMBER 2023

### CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

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#### Board Sponsor

Councillor Steve MacKay, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children & Families

#### Author

Tina Russell, Chief Executive Worcestershire Children First

#### Priorities

This report is relevant to the following Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention & inequalities  | <input type="checkbox"/> Homes, Communities & Places |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health & Wellbeing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs & Opportunities        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy Living at All Ages |  |

#### Safeguarding

This report does not have a direct impact on safeguarding children or adults

#### Item for Decision, or Information & Assurance

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decision | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information/assurance |
|-----------------------------------|---|

#### Recommendation

1. **The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note:**
  - a. **the update on the activity of the CYPSP to deliver services in accordance with the priorities of Worcestershire's Children and Young People's Plan 2022-2024 and the NHS Forward Plan;**
  - b. **the expectation for partners to endorse and prioritise support for the Family Hub model; and**
  - c. **the action taken in response to the January 2023 Scrutiny Report on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).**

#### Executive Summary

2. One year into the Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan, the respective subgroups continue to deliver against the action plan and priorities. The plan has a range of measures against our base line or national data which we use to monitor outcome of the work of the individual subgroups.
3. For the Early Help Partnership, we see improvements in School Readiness, Access to Early Years provision for 2-year-olds, Supporting Families PBR claims and partnership contributions to completion of early help support plan for children and families.
4. The Health & Care Act 2022 required each Integrated Care Board (ICB) in England, and their partner NHS trusts and foundation trusts, to produce and publish a Joint

Forward Plan (JPF)<sup>1</sup> which sets out how NHS Partners will contribute to the delivery of the shared priorities set out in the Integrated Care Strategy; the priorities identified in the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies. National priorities for the NHS set out in the NHS Long Term Plan and mandatory national planning requirements. The JPF has not set out new priorities; instead, it describes actions, timelines, targets, and performance measures that NHS partners will focus on over the coming 5 years.

5. As part of the Mental Health Collaborative, we can see a reduction in the number of children and young people who require alternative education arrangements due to their mental health preventing them from attending school, and we have reduced the number “severely absent” due to mental health, which are positive impacts of the work being done. However, our completion of health assessments for Looked After Children is poor at 74% compared to the England, average of 91%, largely due to out of county areas where we are not prioritising and workforce capacity across Paediatricians, Health Visits and social workers all paying a part in how the system meets demand.
6. The number of “vulnerable” children, receiving and or on waiting lists for CAMHS, is a concern as data is not easily or frequently obtained, with limited levels of children and young people feedback on accessibility and impact of emotional health and wellbeing services provided. However, Worcestershire Children First (WCF) feedback from Looked After Children and Care Leaver, Summer 2022 provided positive feedback that they felt they were supported, had carers that listened to them, professionals to support them and a network of family and friends to go to in need. WCF will undertake the survey again this year and CYPSP has asked for more provider feedback on take up and outcome of commissioned services.
7. The SEND partnership has comprehensive reporting through the Accelerated Action Plan, monitored by the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England and through the 0-25 Strategic Partnership. Recognising increased demand is in line with national average, our ability to meet is still a challenge though the local authority/WCF. Health services are working hard individually and together to meet this challenge and improve the experiences of parent carers. In term of measures, the impact on timeliness for assessment and issuing of Educational Health and Care Plans (ECHPs) is having an improving trend, but within the context of low performance.
8. In terms of safeguarding children, we can see positive progress from the baseline with between 13% and 15% of children subject to repeat plans in two years. This is an improvement from our previous figure of 20%, and even better improvement figure when compared against England average at 22%. Our care proceedings timeliness remain strong with approximately 82% of cases completed within 26 weeks compared to a national average of 42%.
9. The Health and Wellbeing Board should be assured that a system-wide collaborative approach is being taken in response to the January 2023 CAMHS Scrutiny Report and following the progress report to CYPSP in October 23 the action plan is being revised and updated to ensure it has focus and pace for the next phase of implementation.

## Background

10. The CYPSP is a subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was established to develop and help implement the Worcestershire’s Children and Young People’s Plan, which supports and underpins the all-age Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy,

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<sup>1</sup> [NHS Joint Forward Plan :: Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System \(hwics.org.uk\)](https://www.hwic.org.uk)

with a focus on improving outcomes for children and young people and reflected in the priorities agreed within the NHS Joint Forward view.

11. The [Worcestershire's Children and Young People's Plan 2022 - 2024](#) priorities are:
  - the best start in life;
  - access to emotional health and wellbeing and mental health support;
  - access to the right education, health and social care intervention; and
  - working together to keep children safe from harm.
12. [The NHS Forward View](#) priorities are:
  - Providing the Best Start in Life
  - Living, aging and dying well
  - Reducing ill health and premature death from avoidable causes

### **CYPSP Sub-group activity**

13. The CYPSP has five subgroups, responsible for the planning and delivery of services specific to each, and collectively delivering the Children and Young People's Plan. Activity and progress of each is summarised below with data provided at **Appendix A**:
  - Children's Early Help Partnership
  - Best Start in Life Partnership
  - 0-25 SEND & All Age Disability Partnership
  - Children & Young People Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Partnership
  - Safeguarding Children's Partnership

#### Children's Early Help Partnership

14. Worcestershire's strategic vision is '*an integrated and inclusive offer for the whole family that supports families to achieve their full potential*'. There is a set of seven key principles that underpin the Worcestershire Early Help Strategy 2022-2025. Further, an Early Help Action Plan drives the progress of the strategy with four key priority areas:
  - Our Early help workforce and early help system approach
  - Develop our locality and district-based family-hub offer
  - Promote engagement and collaboration with parents/ carers/ children and young people
  - Worcestershire's whole system approach to prevention and Early Help.
15. There has been a focus on the prevention of escalation of need and vulnerability. For example, 98% of our 278 schools and Alternative Provision settings have an Early Help Offer of support on their website. We have promoted local services and support to communities, engaging services and partners to attend Early Help in the Community events. This partnership sub-group is delivering the development of the Family Hubs and our virtual Family Hub resource has over 3,000 hits a month. In addition, we have developed our Youth Offer, working with VCS and District Council Partners.
16. Early help performance indicator data sets, detailed in **Appendix A**, demonstrate positive outcomes for the year to date including:
  - the percentage of children reaching the expected level of development at their 2½ year review is higher than the England average;

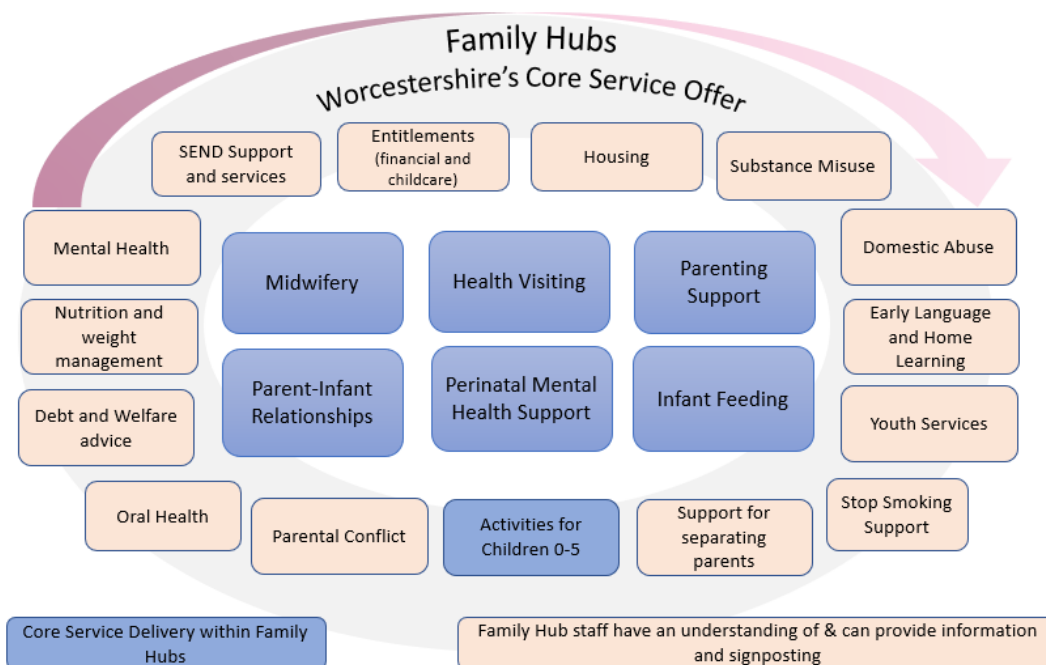
- childhood obesity figures show an improving trend against National data, with Worcestershire having a lower percentage of children in Reception and Year 6 who have excess weight;
- an increased number of pupils are reaching a good level of development at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage, with Worcestershire slightly above National and Maintained schools;
- Worcestershire has higher rates of school readiness, accessing 2-year-old early years settings, than national data (measured across three school terms);
- despite an increased target for Supporting Families claims achieved, Worcestershire is on course to meet this;
- the Holiday Activities and Food uptake is set to increase as planned, for both SEND and secondary aged children. WCF has targeted different types of provision and groups to ensure they have the opportunity and accessibility. For the year to date, reach has grown to 13,494 children.

### Best Start in Life Partnership

17. The earliest years of a child's life have a significant impact on their long-term development and life chances. Giving children the best start in life is a fundamental part of improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities. The 'best start' begins before birth, with good pre-conception and maternity care. If our children and families receive appropriate support during their early years, they have a real chance of maximising their potential. This is a priority in our Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Worcestershire's Children and Young People's Plan.
18. The newly formed Best Start in Life Partnership and work programme focuses on systemwide, preventative approaches and services during the early years (0-5 years) to improve outcomes for children and families. We aim to achieve:
  - a healthy pregnancy for parents and babies;
  - effective support for family to thrive and develop well;
  - increased mental wellbeing and resilience of parents and infants;
  - early identification and provision of appropriate support for disadvantaged or vulnerable families and those with complex needs;
  - a clear accessible integrated offer of support, which is promoted and accessed by those that require it most; and
  - prevention of adverse childhood experiences, child morbidity and mortality.
19. The diagram at **Appendix A** demonstrates the breadth and detail of the programme, with multiple priorities and work areas, themed around working as an integrated system to reduce inequalities, identifying and supporting those children and families at risk, ensuring whole family and community centre approaches, and ensuring that is holistic, to address the wider determinants of the Best Start in Life.
20. The Best Start in Life work programme includes the development and implementation of Family Hubs and the Start for Life Offer in Worcestershire, as outlined in the national [Best Start for Life Vision](#). Considerable engagement and feedback from families, communities and services has been gained on current services and support for families to shape this.
21. A number of areas have received additional investment to develop Family Hubs. Worcestershire has not been eligible and is an unfunded area. We are thus developing Family Hubs within national framework guidance, using existing provision and assets.

22. Worcestershire has nine current family hubs. Outreach sites and buildings include libraries, community centres, clinics etc. The virtual offer, online information and support will be virtual family hub pages and a digital service offer.

23. The core service offer will be shaped as demonstrated in the diagram below:



24. Across the county Family Hubs will be a place-based way of joining and integrating local family services and support. Services will be available either physically face to face within a Family Hub building or via other local outreach sites or virtually. Services will be a mix of universal and open access as well as more targeted support for those who need it. Local services will share information and work together within Family Hub networks to provide holistic support to local families. Support provided will be communicated to all parents and carers with a focus on those who are hardest to reach and/or most in need. Parents/carers will have a local single point of access to the range of support as well as digital access through the Virtual Family Hub. The host service and coordinator of the physical Family Hub buildings is the Parenting, Family Connector and Volunteering service element of the wider Starting Well service, funded by Public Health.

#### 0-25 SEND & All Age Disability Partnership

25. Worcestershire's vision in the SEND Strategy 2023 -2026 is for "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 priority is to ensure access to the right education, health, and social care intervention across four key areas:

- Inclusivity in mainstream schools
- School sufficiency for children with SEN
- Working with Parents and Carers
- Quality and timeliness of assessments of EHCP to assess need and provide services.

26. The [Worcestershire SEND Accelerated Progress Plan](#) is designed to address the above, with comprehensive reporting of data monitored by the DfE and NHS England.
27. Importantly, the number of children being issued with a new EHCP, being placed in mainstream school, is slowly rising as schools become better equipped to support these pupils through improved training of staff, increased resources, support, and guidance as well as more accessible spaces.
28. Although not in line with national average which stands at 71.2%. There is improvement, with the percentage of children with an EHCP receiving education in mainstream schools rising in Worcestershire from 62.7% in 2021/22 to 63.3 in 2022/23.
29. There has further been steady improvement in the number of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks (minus exceptions) in recent months.

#### Children & Young People Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Partnership

30. The Worcestershire Children and Young People Plan includes key performance indicators to monitor improvements in the emotional wellbeing and mental health of our children and young people. This is complemented by the ICS Children and Young Peoples Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Transformation Plan 2022-23. The Delivery Plan was refreshed in September 2023.
31. There remains increased demand paired with challenging recruitment for mental health services. To mitigate, there has been continued exploration of alternatives to traditional posts across the Mental Health Collaborative. Recruitment is sustained across key pathways including Eating Disorder Services and All Age Urgent Care.
32. The Mental Health Collaborative works to ensure links with support services and VCSE's to promote coordinated approaches.
33. The voice of the user is central, and as such, a 16-24 Working group has been established and continues to develop pathways to align with NHS Key Lines of Enquiry.
34. There is a reduction in the number of children and young people who require alternative education arrangements due to their mental health preventing them from attending school, and we have reduced the number "severely absent" due to mental health, which are positive impacts of the work being done.
35. Completion of health assessments for Looked After Children is low (74%) compared to the England average (91%), largely due to out of county areas where we are not prioritising and workforce capacity across Paediatricians, Health Visitors and Social Workers impacting how the system meets demand.
36. The number of "vulnerable" children, receiving and or on waiting lists for CAMHS is not easily obtained, with limited feedback on accessibility and impact of services. However, WCF feedback from Looked After Children and Care Leavers, Summer 2022 was positive; that they felt they were supported, had carers that listened to them, professionals to support them and a network of family and friends to go to in need.



## Safeguarding Children's Partnership

37. Key work from the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership includes a multi-agency audit of a small number of children's experiences who have been affected by domestic abuse. The results are currently with our Quality Assurance, Practice & Procedures Group (QAPP) and briefings for practitioners, summarising learning will be circulated and shared with the Worcestershire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.
38. The Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership recently completed a Child Safeguarding Practice Review using an independently led multi-agency audit. This reviewed five cases where children or young people are having regular contact with family members who are Registered Sex Offenders. It identified both strong practice and opportunities for learning.
39. There is an improving trend regarding the percentage of repeat Child Protection plans within two years and also, the timelessness in case proceedings against the 26-week target. Performance against these measures is monitored within the QAPP Group.

## **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Scrutiny Report**

40. In May 2022, the Health and Wellbeing Board directed the CYPSP to consider the January 2023 Scrutiny Report on CAMHS, alongside the Cabinet member and Integrated Care Board responses, to ensure a system wide collaborative approach was actioned. This has been addressed through CYPSP and following the progress report to its meeting in October 2023, the action plan is being revised and updated to ensure it has focus and pace for the next phase of implementation.

## **Impact on health disparities**

41. An Equality Relevance Screening was completed in respect of the Worcestershire's Children and Young People's Plan 2022-2024. The screening did not identify any potential equality considerations requiring further consideration during implementation.

## **Legal, financial and HR implications**

42. This is an update on subgroup activity, with no proposals and therefore no associated legal, financial or HR implications to consider. Implications of continuing service delivery outcomes rests with responsible commissioners and providers.

## **Contact point**

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## **Background Papers**

1. In the opinion of the proper officer (insert name and title) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:
  - [8 HWB CAHMS Report 23 May 2023.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
  - [7 CYPSP May 2022.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)