

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

8 December, 2010

Agenda

A meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee will take place at the **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK** on **WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER, 2010** at **10.00 am**.

The agenda will be:-

1. General

- (1) **Apologies for Absence**
- (2) **Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a prejudicial interest the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Membership of a district or borough council is classed as a personal interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/committee-papers

relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.

- (3) **Minutes of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20 October**
- (4) **Chair's Announcements**

2. Public Question Time (Standing Order 34)

Up to 30 minutes of the meeting is available for members of the public to ask questions on any matters relevant to the business of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Questioners may ask two questions and can speak for up to three minutes each.

To be sure of receiving an answer to an appropriate question, please contact Ann Mawdsley on 01926 418079 or e-mail annmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk at least five working days before the meeting. Otherwise, please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting and ensure that Council staff are aware of the matter on which you wish to speak.

3. Questions to the Portfolio Holder

Up to 30 minutes of the meeting is available for Members of the Committee to put questions to the Portfolio Holder (Councillor Heather Timms (Children Young People and Families)) on any matters relevant to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee's remit and for the Portfolio Holder to update the Committee on relevant issues.

4. Statementing of Pupils

Report of the Strategic Director of Children Young People and Families

This report outlines the statutory processes which determine the statementing of pupils including timelines.

Recommendation

That the Committee support the Assessment, Statementing and Review Service (ASRS) to identify key issues for action in the forthcoming Green Paper on Special Educational Needs in order to ensure that the Local Authority remain compliant and maintains delivery of outcomes currently reflected in the National Indicator Performance data (see Appendix A).

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/committee-papers

For further information please contact Jessica Nash, Assistant Head of Service SEN and Inclusion, Tel: 01926 742405 E-mail jessicanash@warwickshire.gov.uk.

5. The Education of Children in Care in Warwickshire

Report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families.

The paper includes a profile of the numbers of children in care served by the Virtual School, data about performance and attendance, data on the reduction of permanent exclusions in the looked after population, the barriers to learning for children in care, and interventions put in place to support achievement and attainment.

Recommendation

That the report from the Virtual School on the education of looked after children is considered and the actions taken by the school to support achievement and attainment are supported by the committee as corporate parents for the pupils and students of the Virtual School.

For further information please contact Anne Hawker, Headteacher of the Virtual School for Children in Care, Tel: 01926 743029 E-mail annehawker@warwickshire.gov.uk.

6. Profile of Special Educational Needs

Report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families.

This report seeks to inform the Committee on the profile of Special Educational Needs and Out of County provision for Warwickshire children with Special Educational Needs.

Recommendation

That the Committee considers the information in this report and supports the Local Authority in implementing the priorities proposed in new legislation to work in collaboration with schools.

For further information please contact Jessica Nash, Assistant Head of Service SEN and Inclusion, Tel: 01926 742405 E-mail jessicanash@warwickshire.gov.uk.

7. Feedback from PRU Select Committee

To consider the recommendations to be forwarded to the Cabinet Paper to follow.

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The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/committee-papers

8. Work Programme 2010-11

Report of the Strategic Director of Customers, Workforce and Governance.

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider its work programme.

Recommendation

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the draft work programme at Appendix 1 and amends as appropriate.

For further information please contact Jane Pollard, Democratic Services Manager, Tel: 01926 412565 E-mail janepollard@warwickshire.gov.uk.

8. Any Other Items

Which the Chair decides are urgent.

Jim Graham
Chief Executive

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Membership

County Councillors:- Peter Balaam, Carol Fox, Robin Hazelton, Julie Jackson, Tilly May Mike Perry, Clive Rickhards, Carolyn Robbins, John Ross, June Tandy (Chair)

Cabinet Portfolio Holder:- Councillor Heather Timms (Children, Young People and Families)

Church Representatives:- Mr Joseph Cannon, Dr Rex Pogson

Parent Governor Representatives:- John Liddamore and Alison Livesey

The reports referred to are available in large print if requested

General Enquiries: Please contact Ann Mawdsley on 01926 418079

E-mail: annmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk

Enquiries about specific reports: Please contact the officers named in the reports.

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The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/committee-papers

Minutes of the Meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 20 October 2010

Present:-

Members of the Committee	Councillor Peter Balaam “ Robin Hazelton “ Julie Jackson “ Tilly May “ Clive Rickhards “ John Ross “ June Tandy (Chair) “ Helen Walton (replacing Councillor Carolyn Robbins for this meeting)
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Parent Governor Representatives	John Liddamore Alison Livesey
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Invited Representatives	Claire Sangster (Governor Representative) Chris Smart (Governor Representative)
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Other County Councillors	Councillor Heather Timms (Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Families)
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Officers	Dave Abbott, Assistant to Political Group (Liberal Democrat) David Bristow, School Improvement Officer – Performance Data Jim Graham, Chief Executive Geoff King, Head of Service – Commissioning Planning & Partnerships Division Ann Mawdsley, Principal Committee Administrator Richard Maybey, Assistant to Political Group (Labour) Jane Pollard, Democratic Services Manager Gereint Stoneman, Sub-Regional Planning Manager Shona Walton, Principal Inspector, Secondary and Special Schools
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1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Joe Cannon, Councillor Carol Fox, Max Hyde, Councillor Mike Perry, Rex Pogson and Councillor Carolyn Robbins (replaced by Councillor Helen Walton for this meeting).

(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Julie Jackson declared a personal interest as her daughter currently uses post 16 transport.

(3) Minutes of the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 1 December 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2010 were noted with the following corrections:

Page 6 – 4. Review of Permanent School Exclusions 2010

Geoff King clarified this point by adding that an electronic system was being built to capture CAFs, but until this was implemented each case had to be dealt with individually.

Page 6 – 6. Review of Permanent School Exclusions 2010

The words “It was agreed” to be replaced with the words “One point of view was expressed” in the first line of point 6.

Page 6 – 7. Scrutiny of Safeguarding

Councillor Balaam asked whether, in light of the national picture and the likelihood that the number of social workers across the country would be cut, the Committee should revisit Safeguarding to assess the situation. It was noted that the Committee’s report was scheduled to be considered by the Cabinet on 18 November and this question should be raised at that meeting.

Matters Arising

Page 7 – 8. Work Programme 2010-11

In response to a question as to whether arrangements had been made to visit a PRU, Jane Pollard reported that she had sent out an invitation to Members for a visit on 16 November. Members who had not responded should contact Jane Pollard directly.

Councillor Julie Jackson recorded her concern that visits were not taking place in the north of the county where there were more children going through the PRU. In light of that, Jane Pollard undertook to look into a visit being arranged to the Keresley Centre PRU

(4) Chair’s Announcements

The Chair reminded Members that the select committee to consider the PRU had been scheduled for Wednesday 24 November in the Council Chamber. The meeting would be a full day meeting with a 10:00 am start.

2. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

3. Questions to the Portfolio Holder

Members' attention was drawn to the documents they had received setting out the Portfolio Holder and Directorate's Key Challenges over the next 12 months and the detailed Appendix of LAA targets relating to this Committee. Jane Pollard noted that the O&S Board had considered the LAA Quarterly Performance Report at their meeting on 5 October and asked that the targets relating to the Children and Young People block that were forecast to be missed, be brought to the attention of this Committee. The Chair noted that she would consider this information together with the Spokespersons and agree a way forward.

There was broad discussion regarding the challenges outlined by the Portfolio Holder and the need for more information to be provided on what was being done to mitigate these challenges and to address the issues facing the Council. Councillor Heather Timms responded that this would depend on the Comprehensive Spending Review being announced later today. She added that as plans developed, information would be shared with the Committee and with the Chair and Spokespersons.

4. Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Working Progress Report

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive setting out the progress to date and future plans for sub-regional working.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were noted:

1. A package of early intervention tailored for the sub-region including working with NEETs (not in education, employment or training) had been implemented involving a college from each area (North Warwickshire and Hinckley College in Warwickshire) and this was progressing well. Gereint Stoneman added that a separate pilot was taking place in Studley, looking at young people and their provision and it was hoped that the work being done regionally with NEETs could be extended to Studley.
2. The Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire (CSW) joint work programme would now focus on nine different areas, but the Chief Executive of the Programme Board had asked for special focus to be put on Children's Services and school improvement.
3. Working sub-regionally optimised opportunities for step change rather than incremental changes, taking into account good practice, but also requiring organisational will to give up proprietorial control and different philosophies within different authorities.

4. In response to a query regarding potential savings in relation to teacher recruitment, which was carried out by schools, it was noted that considerable savings could be made in the common administrative processes that sat about the school processes, eliminating waste and picking out best practice where it existed. It was noted that other areas for savings included CRB checks, which could result in huge savings if they could be held sub-regionally. The Chair noted that the area of teacher recruitment on a regional basis, including issues around Governors and confidentiality was an area that may need to be scrutinised at a later date.
5. Claire Sangster made reference to a proposed DCFS pilot for a centralised teacher recruitment scheme which had been presented to the Governor's Forum approximately three years ago. The Chair asked that this be investigated and a response be sent to the Committee.
6. Jim Graham confirmed that there was no new money for Total Place and the intention was to retrieve monies from inefficiencies that existed across the region. He added that approximately £1.8 billion was spent annually across the region on services for children and it was estimated that 20% savings could be achieved by improving co-ordination of services.
7. Discussions were ongoing with the Department of Education regarding the Place Based Budget Community Budgets, which could still result in a second phase of work.

The Chair thanked Gereint Stoneman for his presentation and asked that a further report be brought back to the Committee at an appropriate time.

5. Report of the Performance of Warwickshire Pupils in 2010 Public Examinations

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families outlining how well Warwickshire pupils did in their public examinations in 2010 compared with results seen nationally and in similar Authorities.

David Bristow gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee, including additional District information, which was tabled at the meeting.

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were raised:

1. The emphasis on improving the attainment of boys over the past few years had resulted in the attainment of girls improving at the same rate. It was noted however that the attainment of boys often improved in Key Stage 5 when pupils were able to opt for subjects according to their own interests.
2. Numbers and percentages were important when considering statistics relating to Looked After Children (LAC). This was a complex picture, but as corporate parents, the Local Authority

and elected Members had a responsibility to support all LAC to reach their maximum potential. It was acknowledged that tracking the progress of LAC was difficult, as this was a fluctuating group of children, including children with special needs and unaccompanied asylum seekers, and children could be in care for very different lengths of time. Members agreed that this was an area that needed further scrutiny within a broader review of attainment. The Chair also suggested that the Committee needed to keep abreast of issues including progress made from one Key Stage to the next, and what was being done to continue improvement. The timing of these updates would be considered by the Chair and Spokespersons.

3. Statistics showed that while Warwickshire children receiving Free School Meals (FSM) at KS2 outperformed the national statistics, the results at KS4 were expected to be worse than the national picture. A broad discussion was held around the use of FSM as a measure and it was noted that there was a very wide range of measures and terms (including FSM) within performance measurement that could be considered, but that generally, children from disadvantaged backgrounds tended to do worse academically. The definition of deprivation to be used by the Coalition Government to determine pupil premiums was not yet known.
4. Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) had a broad range of needs that could be complex and severe needs and so the group were less likely overall to achieve the national expectation.
5. Overall performance in the north of the county was lower than that in the south and east and this gap had widened over the past five years.
6. Concern was raised about the resources focussed on narrowing the gap in the past without any evidence given on outcomes. It was noted that the data provided under "Annex – End of Key Stage 4 performance by locality" was collated according to where children lived and did not yet include 2010 data. A number of localities were highlighted where trends in attainment were giving cause for concern, predominantly in Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire. It was suggested that consideration should be given to putting a strategy in place setting out how value could be added to achieve the aim of narrowing the gap and ensuring quality education for all children.
7. Schools were judged on a large number of measures. Information on school inspections was available in Ofsted reports which were in the public domain, and it was important that schools be judged on broader profile issues than just results, including environment, culture and teaching.
8. Members agreed to hold a select committee style seminar to look at educational attainment, including:
 - schools that were failing and why

- standards of teaching
- super output area (SOA) data.

This would be held once 2010 final results were available, possibly in March/April 2011.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- Thanked all those involved in producing the report
- Noted the performance in Warwickshire schools in 2010
- The issues related to “narrowing the gaps” in performance for all groups of children across the county needed to be addressed.

6. Work Programme 2010-11

The Committee agreed the Work Programme with the inclusion of:

- Update report on the Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Working to the February 2011 meeting.
- A select committee style seminar to look at Educational Attainment (date to be confirmed).

Jane Pollard confirmed the new dates of meetings for the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2011-12 and undertook to e-mail these to co-opted Members and observers.

Jane Pollard confirmed that the O&S Board had decided not to commission a Task and Finish Group to consider Post 16 Transport.

7. Any Other Items

There were no urgent items.

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Chair

The Committee rose at 12:50 p.m.

- Cabinet Member For information:
Cllr Heather Timms
- Other Cabinet Members consulted
- Chief Executive
- Legal Fay Ford *"comments incorporated into the report"*
- Finance
- Other Strategic Directors
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Jane Pollard, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

FINAL DECISION

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 8 December 2010

Statementing of Pupils

Report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families

Recommendation:

That the Committee support the Assessment, Statementing and Review Service (ASRS) to identify key issues for action in the forthcoming Green Paper on Special Educational Needs in order to ensure that the Local Authority remain compliant and maintains delivery of outcomes currently reflected in the National Indicator Performance data (see Appendix A).

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its last meeting on 8 September 2010 the Committee received a report entitled Review of Permanent School Exclusions 2010. Further to recommendation 18 of this report the Committee asked to receive a further report on the Statementing of Pupils.
- 1.2 This report sets out the further information requested and includes the legal requirements and what influence can be had outside of statutory requirements and also considers the length of time in different areas leading up to statementing (**Appendix A**).

2. Processes Required to 'Statement' a Pupil

- 2.1 The term 'special educational needs' has a legal definition. Children with special educational needs all have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children and young people of the same age. These children may need extra or different help from that given to other children of the same age.
- 2.2 Children and young people do not have learning difficulties just because their first language is not English. However, these children may still have learning difficulties that need to be addressed.
- 2.3 Children and young people with special educational needs may need extra help because of a range of needs, such as in thinking and understanding, physical

or sensory difficulties, emotional and behavioural difficulties, or difficulties with speech and language or how they relate to and behave with other people. Schools have access to Local Authority (LA) funded support services which can work with them to plan and/or deliver approaches in order to support pupil needs. In addition to specialist advice or support, funding for special educational needs at the Code of Practice 'School Action' and 'School Action Plus' is delegated to all mainstream schools through a formula directly into their base budget. The Code of Practice provides guidance for the appropriate application of these financial and specialist resources. Schools are expected to work within this framework to meet individual needs and where possible avoid the need to move forward to requesting statutory assessment. Targeted intervention in relation to an identified special educational need should be specific and time limited; it is the responsibility of the school SENCo to lead and manage the process.

- 2.4 Statutory guidance on identifying, assessing and making provision for pupils with SEN including those with behavioural, social and emotional needs is given in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. This document provides specific detail as to effective practice around mainstream response to Special Educational Needs (SEN) and statutory processes. Parents can request statutory assessment. It is advised that they consult with the school's SEN Co-ordinator (SENCo); schools can request statutory assessment, it is expected that they do/can evidence attempts at engaging and securing parental consent for the request.
- 2.5 Statutory Assessment is a detailed investigation to find out exactly what a child's special educational needs are and what provision is needed to meet those needs. A statutory assessment is only necessary if the school or early education setting cannot provide all the help that a child needs. Once it has been decided that a pupil has SEN, the school should take account of the guidance in the SEN Code of Practice. This includes giving parent/carer information about the local Parent Partnership Service. Parents can access independent support for any issue around pupils' additional needs from the Parent Partnership Service, currently traded externally.
- 2.6 The LA will look at the request for a statutory assessment and aims to advise parents of the outcome, normally within six weeks. This involves the LA writing to parent(s) /carer to:
- tell them that they are considering whether to carry out a statutory assessment;
 - tell them how they will carry out the statutory assessment if one is done;
 - explain the timescales (which will be no longer than six months in all);
 - give them the name of the person at the local authority who will be a point of contact;
 - ask them to give written or spoken reasons, 'evidence', about why the parent/carer thinks their child should or should not be assessed (the parent /carer has 29 days to send this in to the LA);
 - tell them about the LA's Parent Partnership Service which will be able to help with independent advice and support;

- ask them if there is anyone else the parent/carer would particularly like the LA to talk to about their child;
 - ask them for any evidence or opinions they have collected or intend to get;
 - encourage them to provide written or spoken evidence for the LA to consider (the LA or the Parent Partnership Service can help parent/carer make a written version).
- 2.7 Local authorities have six weeks to confirm with the parent/carer whether they will carry out a statutory assessment of their child. The parent/carer can challenge the LA if this process goes beyond 6 weeks.
- 2.8 The LA must write to advise parent/carer of the outcome of the request for Statutory Assessment. If the decision is not to go forward with the assessment then the LA has to explain its reasons.
- 2.9 The parent/carer can still work with the school to consider different arrangements. Support from the LA SEN officer and/or Parent Partnership is still available to support this process. The parent/carer has the right to appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) if they disagree with the LA's decision.
- 2.10 If the LA decision is to proceed with an assessment then the LA will ask a number of professionals to give their views on the child. It will ask for advice from:
- the child's school or early education setting;
 - an educational psychologist;
 - a doctor;
 - social services (who will only give advice if the child is known to them);
 - anyone else whose advice the LA consider appropriate.
- 2.11 The parent/carer has the right to be present at any interview, medical or other test during the statutory assessment.
- 2.12 The parent/carer will also be asked for their views again – this is separate from asking them about whether they think their child should be assessed. Parent/carer can suggest any other people or organisations they consider may be helpful in the assessment of their child. The LA is obliged to ask those people for their views. Parent/carer can also send the LA any private advice and the LA should take these into account as part of the assessment.
- 2.13 Below is a summary of the timescales within which the processes described above are required to be implemented:
- | | |
|----------|--|
| 0 weeks | – request for Statutory Assessment received by LA. |
| 6 weeks | – LA makes decision about whether to proceed with Statutory Assessment (the LA is obliged to write to parent/carer to outline this stage). |
| 16 weeks | – LA undertakes Statutory Assessment to inform whether or not a Statement of SEN is appropriate; obliged to invite parent/carer |

- to contribute to collection of evidence alongside its own professionals.
- 18 weeks - LA will either issue a Proposed Statement, or where the Statutory Assessment does not indicate a Statement of Need is appropriate the LA sends a Note in Lieu outlining the rationale for this decision.
- 26 weeks – Based on parental response to the Proposed Statement the LA issues the Final Statement of SEN.

2.14 A statement of SEN is set out in six parts:

- part one gives general information about the child and a list of the advice the LA received as part of the assessment;
- part two gives the description of the child's needs following the assessment;
- part three describes all the special help to be given for the child's needs;
- part four gives the type and name of the school the child should go to and how any arrangements will be made out of school hours or off school premises;
- part five describes any non-educational needs the child may have;
- part six describes how the child will get help to meet any non-educational needs.

2.15 The parents/carers are sent a draft statement before the LA writes a final statement. It will be complete except for part four, which describes the type and name of school or education provided out of school. Part four is left blank for parent(s) to express a preference for the educational provision they want for their child.

2.16 There will be circumstances in which it is not reasonable to expect agencies to meet timescales, eg. non attendance for a medical appointment so that a further date needs to be set, but any delay should be clearly communicated and kept to a minimum. Statutory regulations clearly state the expectations to the time limits.

MARION DAVIS
Strategic Director for Children,
Young People and Families

Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
Warwick

24 November 2010

Appendix A

Assessment, Statementing, Review Service

Quarterly Timescale Report: Period 1st July – 30th September, 2010.

National Indicator 43: Referral Received to Proposed Issued (18 week / 126 day deadline)

Excluding Cases with Exceptions (NI43A)

Cases completed within 126 days or less (x)= 114

All Cases (y) 114

Formula: $x \div y \times 100 = \%$

Result = 100%

All Cases with or without Exceptions (National Indicator 43B)

Cases completed within 126 days or less (x)= 114

All Cases (y) 118

Formula: $x \div y \times 100 = \%$

Result = 97%

National Indicator 103: Referral Received to Final Issued (26 week / 182 day deadline)

Excluding Cases with Exceptions (NI103A)

Cases completed within 182 days or less (x)= 108

All Cases (y) 108

Formula: $x \div y \times 100 = \%$

Result = 100%

All Cases i.e. with or without Exceptions (NI103B)

Cases completed within 182 days or less (x)= 108

All Cases (y) 118

Formula: $x \div y \times 100 = \%$

Result = 92%

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date of Committee **8 December 2010**

Report Title **The Education of Children in Care in Warwickshire**

Summary The paper includes a profile of the numbers of children in care served by the Virtual School, data about performance and attendance, data on the reduction of permanent exclusions in the looked after population, the barriers to learning for children in care, and interventions put in place to support achievement and attainment.

For further information please contact: Anne Hawker
Headteacher of the Virtual School for Children in Care
Tel: 01926 743029
annehawker@warwickshire.gov.uk

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No

Background papers

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:

Details to be specified

Other Committees

Local Member(s)

Other Elected Members CYP&F O&S Chair and Vice Chair
Cllr June Tandy
Cllr John Ross

CYP&F O&S Spokespersons
Cllr Peter Balaam “*comments incorporated into the report*”

Cllr Carolyn Robbins

- Cabinet Member For information:
Cllr Heather Timms
- Other Cabinet Members consulted
- Chief Executive
- Legal Fay Ford *"No comments - My view is that the attached report is entirely sensible and uncontroversial. It consists of figures and statistics in relation to the education of Children in Warwickshire and an overall report on performance. There are certainly no legal issues"*.
- Finance
- Other Strategic Directors
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Jane Pollard, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

FINAL DECISION

YES/NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 8 December 2010

The Education of Children in Care in Warwickshire

Report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families

Recommendation:

That the report from the Virtual School on the education of looked after children is considered and the actions taken by the school to support achievement and attainment are supported by the committee as corporate parents for the pupils and students of the Virtual School.

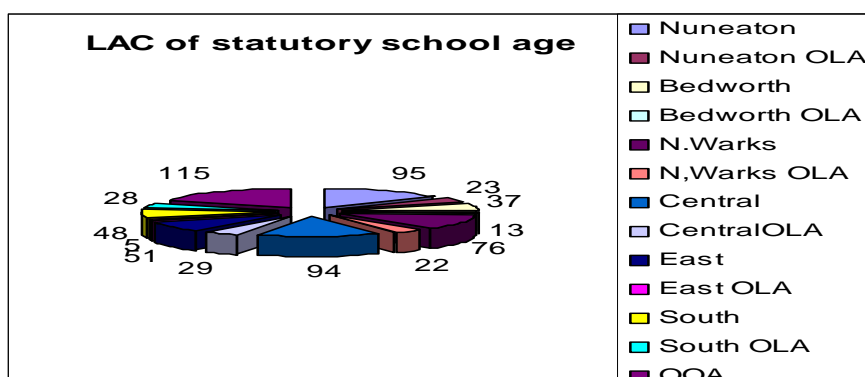
1. Introduction

1.1 The Profile of Warwickshire Virtual School

The Virtual School has a statutory responsibility to promote the achievement and attainment of children in care age 3-25, if remaining in education, whether in the care of Warwickshire or other authorities. Therefore the number on roll of the Virtual School is **858**. This includes Warwickshire students educated out of area as well as those from other authorities, educated in Warwickshire.

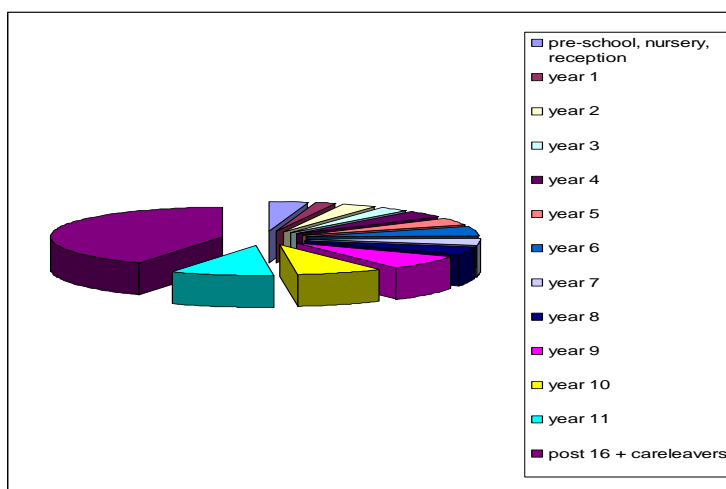
There are significantly more children in care in the North of the County, however this can also reflect the numbers of foster carers living there.

OOA= out of area, OLA- from other Las

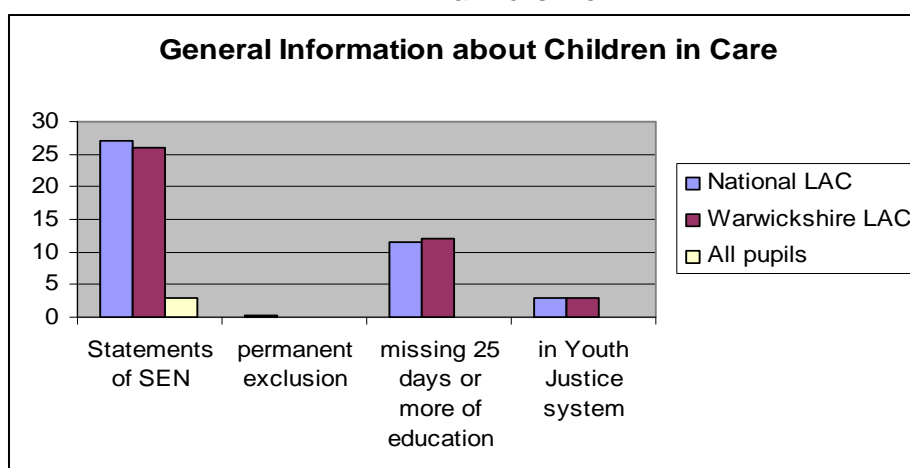


1.2 The Virtual School Roll by Year Group in October 2010

Virtual School Roll by year group	
pre-school, nursery,	33
year 1	16
year 2	30
year 3	24
year 4	32
year 5	36
year 6	44
year 7	36
year 8	36
year 9	70
year 10	70
year 11	85
post 16 + care leavers	372



44% of children in the care of Warwickshire are in years 9, 10 and 11
 In October 2010 there were 77 unaccompanied asylum seekers in the care of Warwickshire.



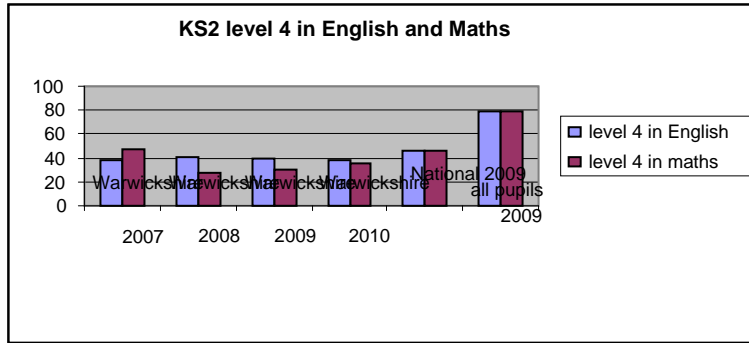
In 2007/8 there were 9 permanent exclusions of children in care in Warwickshire
 In 2009-10, this reduced to 1 (see **Appendix A** for more detail)

The overall figure for attendance in 2009-10, for children in care is 92%
 The figure for all Warwickshire schools is 92.7% (see **Appendix A** for more detail)

1.3 The Achievement and Attainment of Children in Care Key Stage 2

The target set for 2010, based on pupils' individual Fischer Family Trust data, was 33% of pupils achieving level 4 in English and 33% achieving level 4 in Maths. The actual % of pupils achieving level 4 or above was 38% in both subjects, indicating performance above expectations.

The Virtual School has contributed through the provision of private tuition, Volunteer Reading help, individual support through the qualified teacher Area Leads, and the letterbox scheme which provided age appropriate reading materials for targeted pupils. Area leads challenge progress for individual pupils in both mainstream and special schools. However, it is recognised that there is still much to do at KS2 to support pupils in reaching national expectations and closing the gap.



1.4 Key Stage 4

Until 2008, the performance of children in care was judged against the 5A*-C GCSE target. Since then, the target has changed to the nationally recognised gold standard of 5A*-C including English and Maths.

In 2010, 2 students achieved 5A*-C including English and Maths which was lower than in 2009 and was disappointing. When the results were analysed against the available Fischer Family trust data for individual students, of those in Warwickshire schools only 5 of the cohort were estimated at having a 50% chance of achieving 5A*-C including English and Maths.

11 students achieved 5A*-C or equivalent which represents 20% of the cohort. This performance is in line with the PSA target set for 2011 and is higher than the national figure of 15% in 2009. However, the gap continues to widen and priority action next year will target the achievement of high quality grades in both English and Math.

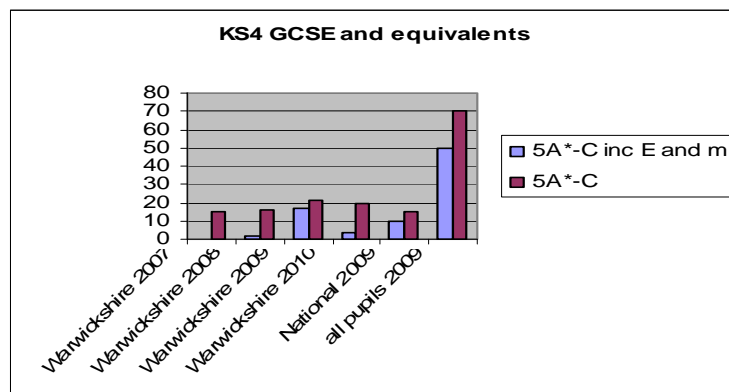
18 students achieved above their Fischer Family Trust estimates.

It is extremely difficult for the unaccompanied asylum seeking students to achieve grade Cs in both English and Maths.

The % of pupils achieving 5A*-C including English and Maths (minus the unaccompanied asylum seekers) = 6% (2/35).

The % of pupils achieving 5A*-C (minus the unaccompanied asylum seekers) = 23% or 8/35.

The role of the Virtual School at Key Stage 4 has been to make regular contacts with schools and foster carers to monitor the progress of individual students against targets. As a result, the Virtual school has identified and implemented interventions such as Wider Key Skills course, individual tuition, alternative education opportunities and counselling. The Wider Key Skills course has been a particular success resulting in 29 students achieving the equivalent of at least 1 grade B and mostly 2 grade Bs at GCSE.



1.5 **The Barriers to Learning Experienced by Children and Young People in Care**

It is well documented that the harm experienced by many children and young people at the hands of their parents will affect them for the whole of their lives and impact upon their ability to learn. Predominantly the children and young people in care come from disadvantaged groups and would be less likely to succeed than the general population even with positive parenting. Many of the pupils and students will have a well established pattern of poor performance and attendance at school before they come into the system and the older they are when they come in to the system the greater the likelihood that not even the most intensive work and support educationally will positively impact upon their life chances. 44% of the students in the Virtual School are in years 9,10 and 11. These pupils and students are likely to experience at least some of the barrier to learning listed below:

- Placement moves.
- Unnecessary moves of school or out of school for prolonged periods.
- Relationship difficulties with peers leading to bullying, racism and harassment.
- Lack of trust in adults because of previous life experience leading to attachment difficulties.
- Lack of trust in adults who could advocate for their needs.
- Low self esteem acting as a barrier to enjoyment of schooling and educational success.
- Inconsistency in education and care planning and lack of clarity about roles and responsibilities amongst professionals.
- Lack of emphasis on education by carers and social workers.
- Lower expectations from schools.
- Lack of understanding about the issues surrounding children in care.
- Too many exclusions of children in care.
- Special educational needs are not identified or addressed.

The staff of the Virtual School work constantly with partners to remove these barriers to learning and enable pupils and students in care to achieve their full potential.

1.6 **Work of the Virtual School**

There is strong evidence that the Virtual School for Children in Care is having a positive impact on raising standards. However the performance of these young people still lags well below that of their peers. Schools use value added data to estimate likely pupil attainment at the end of Year 11. Most of the Looked After pupils in Year 11 in 2010 achieved their targets. 20 Year 11 pupils in care exceeded their estimates.

The Virtual School tracks the progress of all pupils in care and intervenes to support schools where progress is not as good as expected. The Head of the Virtual School also intervenes to prevent Children in Care being excluded from school as happened too often in the past.

1.7 **Some of the Successful Interventions used in the Last Year to Improve Attainment - Key stage 2**

- One to one tuition. The Virtual School extended the government scheme by providing additional tuition over and above the 10 provided by the 1:1 scheme in English and Maths.
- It worked in partnership with the County 1:1 coordinator to run a summer camp for year 6 students to support their literacy and numeracy.
- The Virtual School has provided literacy support through the Volunteer Reading Help charity. The charity provides a volunteer to work individually with 3 children for 20 minutes, twice a week, using literacy games and reading materials geared around the child's specific interests.

- The Virtual School has provided additional reading materials through the Letterbox scheme.

1.8 **Key Stage 4**

- Individual tuition has been provided to bolster sessions provided by the 1:1 Scheme as well as to support a variety of subjects from Science, ICT, English as an additional language, History and Geography.
- 30 students from Years 9 -11 took part in a 9 day FunKey Skills course during the Easter and Summer Holidays. All have achieved the equivalent of either 1 grade B at GCSE or 2 ¼ grade B in Wider Key Skills.
- In partnership with Trinity School in Leamington, 9 students attended an IT course and all passed at the equivalent of grade B.
- The Virtual School runs a club for unaccompanied asylum seekers in Leamington to support their English skills and to help with homework. There has also been an animation project running in tandem, again to support their English skills.
- The Virtual School trained a group of social workers and carers to be verifiers for ASDAN qualifications so that they can accredit the activities in which the young people take part.
- Training has been provided for carers on how to support their young people through education.
- The Virtual School ran an awards ceremony at Warwick University to celebrate achievement and attainment of Children in Care and to raise aspirations both amongst the pupils but also amongst their carers.

MARION DAVIS

Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families
Saltisford Office Park, Ansell Way, Warwick

24 November 2010

Overview and Scrutiny Report on the Education of Children in Care

Evidence to support the Impact of the Virtual School on Outcomes for Children in Care in Warwickshire

1. Exclusions

In 2007/8 there were 9 permanent exclusions of children in care in Warwickshire

As a result, the Virtual School took the lead in the development of the Strategy of intensive support for students in care in Warwickshire. The aim of the strategy was an outcome of zero permanent exclusions for children in care and was worked in partnership with the Early Intervention Service. The strategy reduced permanent exclusion to 4 in 2008/9 and to 1 in 2009/10. In 2009/10, the Virtual School prevented over 10 permanent exclusions of pupils and students in the care of Warwickshire.

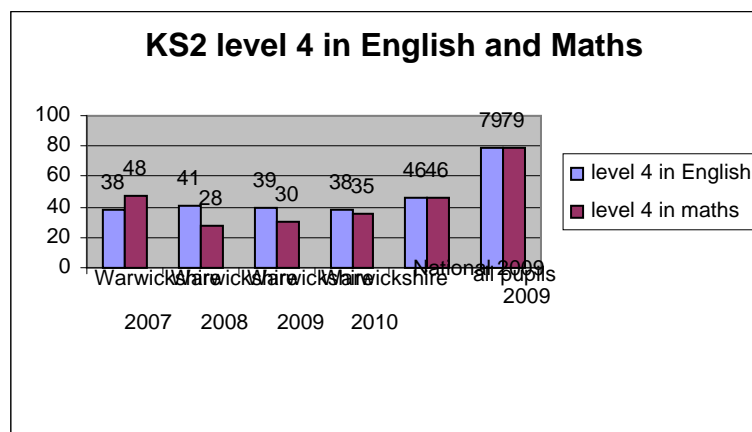
2. Attendance

The overall figure for attendance in 2009-10, for children in care is 92%. The Warwickshire figure for all schools is 92.7%, therefore performance is in line with local and national expectations. The role of the Virtual School has been to work with schools to closely monitor attendance, to support foster carers and social workers with appropriate training, emphasising the importance of consistent attendance, and targeted work with individual children. To this end, the Virtual School has maintained a level of attendance for its pupils and students in line with local and national indicators.

3. KS2 Achievement and Attainment

Here is the key stage 2 profile for 2009-10:

- There were 23 year 6 Warwickshire students in Warwickshire schools;
- There were 3 Warwickshire students educated in schools out of authority;
- There were 5 students from other authorities educated in Warwickshire schools;
- Therefore 31 students were supported in year 6 during 2009-10 but only Warwickshire children count towards national statistics;
- Of the above, 5 came into care during year 6;
- 10 pupils had a statement of special educational need. At 38% of the cohort this is considerably higher than the national profile in 2009 which stood at 26%.



The target set for 2010, based on pupils' individual Fischer Family Trust data, was 33% of pupils achieving level 4 in English and 33% achieving level 4 in maths. The actual % of pupils achieving level 4 or above was 38% in both subjects, indicating performance above expectations.

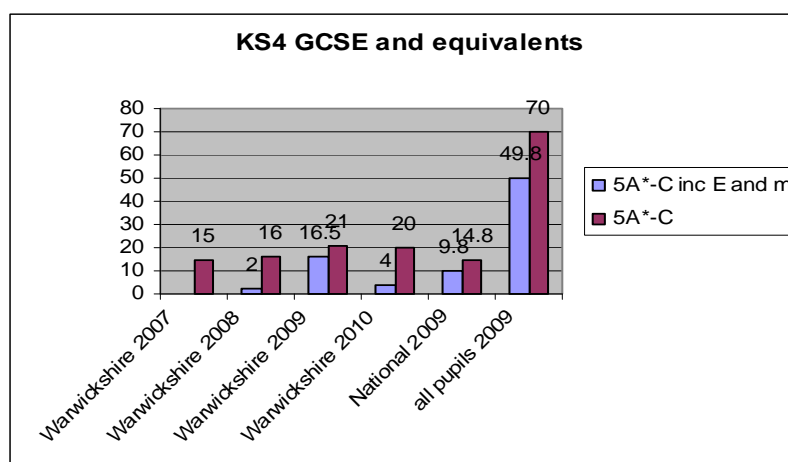
The Virtual School has contributed through the provision of private tuition, Volunteer Reading help, individual support through the qualified teacher Area Leads, and the letterbox scheme which provided age appropriate reading materials for targeted pupils. Area leads challenge progress for individual pupils in both mainstream and special schools. However, it is recognised that there is still much to do at KS2 to support pupils in reaching national expectations and to close the gap.

4. KS4 Achievement and Attainment

Until 2008, the performance of children in care was judged on the 5A- C GCSE target. Since then, the target has changed to the nationally recognised gold standard of 5A*- C including English and Maths.*

This is the profile of Key Stage 4 students in 2009-10:

- There were 35 year 11 Warwickshire students in Warwickshire schools + 2 students out of age group;
- There were 21 Warwickshire students educated in schools out of authority;
- There were 13 students from other authorities educated in Warwickshire schools;
- Therefore 71 students were supported by the Virtual School in year 11 during 2009-10;
- There were 58 Warwickshire students in year 11 during 2009 – 10, 2 students studying out of year;
- Of these, 9 of 56 came into care during year 11;
- 21 were unaccompanied asylum seekers, 15 of whom arrived during Key Stage 4;
- 12 pupils out of 56 had a statement of special educational need, which represents 21%.



In 2010, 2 students achieved 5A*-C including English and Maths which was lower than in 2009 and was disappointing. When the results were analysed against the available Fischer Family trust data for individual students, of those in Warwickshire schools only 5 of the cohort were estimated at having a 50% chance of achieving 5A*-C including English and Maths.

APPENDIX A

11 students achieved 5A*-C or equivalent. This is 20% of the cohort; it is in line with the PSA target that had been set for 2011 and is higher than the national figure of 15% in 2009. However, the gap continues to widen and priority action next year will target the achievement of high quality grades in both English and Maths.

18 students achieved above their Fischer Family Trust estimates.

It is extremely difficult for the unaccompanied asylum seeking students to achieve grade Cs in both English and Maths.

The % of pupils achieving 5A*-C including English and Maths (minus the unaccompanied asylum seekers) = 6% (2/35)

The % of pupils achieving 5A*-C (minus the unaccompanied asylum seekers) = 23% or 8/35.

The role of the Virtual School at Key Stage 4 has been to make regular contacts with schools and foster carers to monitor the progress of individual students against targets. As a result, the Virtual school has identified and implemented interventions such as Wider Key Skills course, individual tuition, alternative education opportunities and counselling. The Wider Key Skills course has been a particular success resulting in 29 students achieving the equivalent of at least 1 grade B and mostly 2 grade Bs at GCSE.

5. **NEETS**

The Area Leads of the Virtual School focus strongly on positive destinations for students during year 11. This strategy is successful and shows positive outcomes with a November 2010 figure of 89% of students in care, who were in the year 11 cohort in 2009/10, in education, employment or training. Of the remaining 11%, one student is serving a custodial sentence, one is refusing support and 4 students are NEET and are looking for employment or training. Support from the Virtual School continues for the 11% and there are plans to support a pre-employment course in Spring 2011.

6. **Higher Education**

There are currently 5 students attending university and 2 studying HND courses. These students have been supported throughout their careers so far by the Virtual School, which will support students who wish to engage in education to the age of 25.

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Committee 8 December 2010

Report Title Profile of Special Educational Needs

Summary This report seeks to inform the Committee on the profile of Special Educational Needs and Out of County provision for Warwickshire children with Special Educational Needs.

For further information please contact: Jessica Nash
Assistant Head of Service SEN and Inclusion
Tel: 01926 742405
jessicanash@warwickshire.gov.uk

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No

Background papers Children and Young People O & S Committee
08.09.10 - Review of Permanent School Exclusions 2010

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:

Details to be specified

Other Committees

Local Member(s)

Other Elected Members CYP&F O&S Chair and Vice Chair
Cllr June Tandy
Cllr John Ross

CYP&F O&S Spokespersons
Cllr Peter Balaam
Cllr Carolyn Robbins

- Cabinet Member For information:
Cllr Heather Timms
- Other Cabinet Members consulted
- Chief Executive
- Legal Fay Ford *"no comments"*
- Finance
- Other Strategic Directors
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Jane Pollard, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

FINAL DECISION

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 8 December 2010

Profile of Special Educational Needs

Report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families

Recommendation:

That the Committee considers the information in this report and supports the Local Authority in implementing the priorities proposed in new legislation to work in collaboration with schools.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its last meeting on 8 September 2010 the Committee received a report entitled Review of Permanent School Exclusions 2010. Further to recommendation 20 of this report the Committee asked to receive a further report on the profile of Special Educational Needs (SEN) with a focus on behaviour and Out of County provision for Warwickshire children.
- 1.2 The Local Authority continues to seek effective ways of working with mainstream schools in order to address SEN which will be influenced both by the forthcoming Schools White Paper and SEN Green Paper.
- 1.3 The information in the table below gives a breakdown of the expenditure for Out of County pupils in relation to their area of SEN and provides some comparison by looking at the spend in other sectors.

As at 15/11/2010

Costs are based on actual expenditure for financial year 2010/11

BESD	Behaviour, Emotional & Social Difficulties
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
SP&L	Speech & Language
PD	Physical Difficulties
HI	Hearing Impairment
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulties
SLCN	Speech, Language & Communication Needs
SLD	Severe Learning Difficulties
SPLD	Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia)
VI	Visual Impairment

Independent Schools - Out County

Area of Need	£	Number of pupils
BESD/ASD	£329,863	4
BESD	£3,954,089	87
ASD	£1,352,276	24
SP & L	£239,993	4
PD	£38,853	1
HI	£197,196	7
MLD	£71,398	4
MEDICAL	£56,984	1
SLCN	£90,278	2
SLD	£435,205	6
SPLD	£223,048	10
VI	£93,376	2
TOTAL	£7,082,559	152

Special Schools - Out County (other LA's)

Area of Need	£	Number of pupils
BESD/ASD	£0	0
BESD	£289,155	16
ASD	£133,883	10
SP & L	£0	0
PD	£85,978	4
HI	£0	0
MLD	£114,217	9
MEDICAL	£14,812	1
SLCN	£59,016	5
SLD	£134,017	9
SPLD	£0	0
VI	£16,080	1
TOTAL	£847,158	55

Mainstream schools - In County

Area of Need	£	Number of pupils
BESD	£1,976,895	260
ASD	£2,245,721	280
PD	£653,951	77
HI	£344,460	42
MLD	£306,328	55
MEDICAL	£22,151	3
SLCN	£948,782	141
SLD	£1,012,102	143
SPLD	£65,031	13
VI	£161,005	20
OTHER	£150,205	17
TOTAL	£7,886,631	1051

Mainstream schools - Out County (other LA's)

Area of Need	£	Number of pupils
All areas of need	£374,364	59
TOTAL	£374,364	59

Special Schools - In County (Warwickshire)

Round Oak	176
Ridgeway	70
Brooke	153
Exhall Grange	182
Oak Wood Primary	71
Oak Wood Secondary	135
River House	48
Welcombe Hills	162
Woodlands	110
TOTAL	1107

MARION DAVIS
Strategic Director for Children,
Young People and Families

Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
Warwick

24 November 2010

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Children and Young People Overview And Scrutiny Committee
Date of Committee 8 December 2010

Report Title Work Programme 2010-11

Summary The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider it work programme.

For further information please contact:

Jane Pollard Democratic Services Manager Tel: 01926 412565 janepollard@warwickshire.gov.uk	Ann Mawdsley Principal Committee Administrator Tel: 01926 418079 annmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk
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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) N/A
- Other Elected Members Councillors June Tandy, Peter Balaam, John Ross
- Cabinet Member For information Councillor Heather Timms
- Chief Executive
- Legal Jane Pollard
- Finance
- Other Strategic Directors
- District Councils

Health Authority

Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Agenda No

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20 October 2010

Work Programme 2010-11

Report of the Strategic Director Customers, Workforce and Governance

Recommendation

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the draft work programme at Appendix 1 and amends as appropriate.

1. Draft Work Programme

Following discussion with the Chair and the party spokespersons a draft work programme for the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is attached for consideration – see Appendix 1.

2. Forward Plan Items

The following items relating to the remit of this committee are currently in the forward plan

Cabinet 16/12/2010

Draft School Organisation Framework

Consideration of policy on school organisation strategy.

Cabinet 27/01/2011

School Transport

Outcome of the consultation on changes to the transport policy

School Federations

Response to consultations by schools wishing to federate

3. Dates of Future Meetings

The dates for future meetings of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee - all starting at 10am are below.

8 December 2010

2 February 2011 (all day)

6 April 2011

8 June 2011

1 September 2011

12 October 2011
14 December 2011
2 February 2012
7 March 2012

DAVID CARTER
Strategic Director Customers,
Workforce and Governance
Shire Hall
Warwick
9 November 2010

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2010-11

			REPORT TYPE				LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES				Cross cutting themes/ LAA
MEETING DATE	ITEM AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	OBJECTIVE OF SCRUTINY	Performance Management	Holding Executive to Account	Policy Review/Development	Overview	Raising Levels of Educational Attainment	Maximising independence for older people and adults with disabilities.	Pursuing a Sustainable Environment and Economy	Protecting the Community and making Warwickshire a safer place to live	Cross cutting themes/ LAA
24 th Nov 2010	Select committee to look at Pupil Re-integration Unit	To review whether the Warwickshire Pupil Re-integration Unit secures the educational entitlement of pupils and represents value for money in the light of the recent Ofsted report	✓	✓	✓						
8 th Dec 2010	Questions to the Portfolio Holder	Committee to put questions to the Portfolio Holder		✓			High				
	Statementing of Pupils	Report requested on 08-09-10. Report to include the legal requirements and what influence can be had outside of statutory requirements and to consider the length of time in different areas leading up to statementing (Geoff King)				✓					
	The education of Looked After Children	Requested by Committee at their meeting on 08-09-10. (Geoff King)	✓	✓							

			REPORT TYPE				LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES			Cross cutting themes/ LAA	
MEETING DATE	ITEM AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	OBJECTIVE OF SCRUTINY	Performance Management	Holding Executive to Account	Policy Review/Development	Overview	Raising Levels of Educational Attainment	Maximising independence for older people and adults with disabilities.	Pursuing a Sustainable Environment and Economy	Protecting the Community and making Warwickshire a safer place to live	Cross cutting themes/ LAA
8 December 2010 continued	Profile of Special Educational Needs with a focus on behaviour and out of county provision for Warwickshire children	Requested by Committee at their meeting on 08-09-10 (Geoff King).	✓	✓							
	Feedback from PRU Select Committee	To approve recommendations of select committee for onward transmission to Cabinet/decision-makers	✓	✓	✓						
	Work Programme										
2 nd February 2011	Questions to Portfolio Holder										
	Scrutiny of Bullying	12 month update requested by Members at the meeting on 01-12-09 (Rachel Evans) to include cyber bullying	✓								
	Educational Attainment KS1-4	To review some of the key issues	✓	✓	✓						
	Work Programme										

			REPORT TYPE				LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES				Cross cutting themes/ LAA
MEETING DATE	ITEM AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	OBJECTIVE OF SCRUTINY	Performance Management	Holding Executive to Account	Policy Review/Development	Overview	Raising Levels of Educational Attainment	Maximising independence for older people and adults with disabilities.	Pursuing a Sustainable Environment and Economy	Protecting the Community and making Warwickshire a safer place to live	Cross cutting themes/ LAA
6th April 2011	Questions to Portfolio holder										
	Special Educational Needs	To review some of the key issues	✓	✓	✓						
	Impact of Government Spending Review					✓					
	Work Programme										
Dates to be fixed	Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire sub-regional programme	To review progress with those elements of the programme related to children				✓					

