

Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday, 29 September 2020

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Membership

Councillor Yousef Dahmash (Chair)

Councillor Pam Williams (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Margaret Bell

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers

Councillor Corinne Davies

Councillor Peter Gilbert

Councillor Daniel Gissane

Councillor Howard Roberts

Councillor Dominic Skinner

Councillor Chris Williams

Joseph Cannon

John McRoberts

Rev. Elaine Scrivens

Sean Taylor

Items on the agenda: -

(1) Apologies

(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5 - 10

Minutes of the meeting held on the 14 July 2020.

(4) Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2020

11 - 12

Minutes from the meeting held on the 23 July in relation to the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee.

2. Public Speaking

3. Question Time

(1) Question to Cabinet Portfolio Holders

Up to 30 minutes of the meeting are available for members of the Committee to put questions to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children.

The enclosed report lists any briefings circulated to the Committee since the last meeting and any items listed in the Council's Forward Plan for decision by Cabinet or individual Cabinet Portfolio Holders over the coming months.

(2) Updates from Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Assistant

Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Assistant Directors are invited to provide any updates they have on issues within the remit of the Committee.

4. Young People's Participation and Engagement Strategy	13 - 74
5. One Organisational Plan - Quarterly Progress Report	75 - 84
Period under review: April 2020 to June 2020	
6. Council Plan 2020 – 2025; Progress Report	85 - 92
Period under review: April 2019 to March 2020	
7. Child Protection Update	93 - 104

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

Disclaimers

Webcasting and permission to be filmed

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Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election or appointment to the Council. A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which s/he has a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless s/he has a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if s/he has not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Must leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting

Non-pecuniary interests must still be declared in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

These should be declared at the commencement of the meeting

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web

<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

Public Speaking

Any member of the public who is resident or working in Warwickshire, or who is in receipt of services from the Council, may speak at the meeting for up to three minutes on any matter within the remit of the Committee. This can be in the form of a statement or a question. If you wish to speak please notify Democratic Services in writing at least two working days before the meeting. You should give your name and address and the subject upon which you wish to speak. Full details of the public speaking scheme are set out in the Council's Standing Orders.

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Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 14 July 2020

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Yousef Dahmash (Chair)
Councillor Pam Williams (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Margaret Bell
Councillor Jonathan Chilvers
Councillor Corinne Davies
Councillor Peter Gilbert
Councillor Howard Roberts
Councillor Dominic Skinner
Councillor Chris Williams

Officers

Nigel Minns, Strategic Director for People
Ian Budd, Assistant Director - Education Services
Ross Caws, Warwickshire SEND Board Development Manager
Duane Chappell, Strategy and Commissioning Manager (SEND & Inclusion)

Others Present

1. General

(1) Apologies

None.

(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

There were no matters arising.

2. Public Speaking

There was no public speaking.

3. Question Time

(1) Question to Cabinet Portfolio Holders

There were no questions to the Portfolio Holders.

(2) Updates from Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Assistant

Ian Budd, Assistant Director - Education Services confirmed the following –

- The Socialisation Offer is ready to go live.
- The Family Information Service (FIS) has produced a programme of “safe” activities for the summer holidays ahead of schools starting in September 2020.
- Amended guidance has been produced for schools to make the necessary adjustments for activities during the school holidays.

In relation to school transport, officers are working on the assumption that services will be provided as normal in September 2020. There is no information as to what parents are planning to do with regards to school transport at this point. It was noted that many parents may not have yet decided. There are weekly meetings with school leaders to discuss arrangements for school transport.

It was confirmed that levels of usage on school transport will be monitored on a week by week basis. It was also confirmed that there will be a review into alternative routes to school as there is an expectation that the first week back in September will see an increase in cars on the road.

Following a question from Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, it was confirmed that some schools have requested zones to be put in place around school entrances and exits to allow for wider start/finish times and to ensure physical measures are in place to support social distancing.

Actions

It was agreed that the details of the FIS safe activities programme will be shared with all elected members.

It was agreed that the new cleaning protocols will be shared with members of the Committee.

4. Warwickshire Education Strategy Annual Review 2019

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Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

14.07.20

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Ian Budd, Assistant Director - Education Services confirmed that Covid-19 has had an impact on many council meetings, including the planned review of the Education Strategy; which had already faced a delay as a result of the General Election in December 2019.

The refreshed strategy is due to be published in September 2020 and will include new insights added as a result of the pandemic. It was confirmed that there had been lots of learning in terms of e-learning, blended learning and distance learning following the closure of schools and all can be added to strengthen the offer made in the strategy and support for learning moving forward.

Following a question from Councillor Margaret Bell in relation to the placement of LAC and SEND children it was confirmed that school readiness is a key part of the Early Years strategy which is currently in progress. The strategy will include the early identification of SEND children. It was confirmed that there are regular reviews of the admissions policy to ensure that national framework and guidance is met.

The Committee noted that the aim for September 2020 was that all children will be back in school. Backup plans have been shared with schools should there be an outbreak of coronavirus within a class/year bubble. Schools will be issued with a number of tests for Covid-19. Contingency plans are expected to be in place to avoid a repeat of the disruption seen in the early weeks of the pandemic.

Following a question from Councillor Jonathan Chilvers and reintegration to a parent school following alternative provision (AP) placement, it was confirmed that every AP package is bespoke to the young person. In majority of cases, links are maintained with the parent school, so the young person does not lose the link. Duane Chappell, Strategy and Commissioning Manager (SEND & Inclusion) stated that it is essential that accountability is maintained throughout the AP process and that Warwickshire County Council must ensure that educational standards are maintained.

Actions

It was agreed that a briefing note will be circulated to members of the Committee in relation to the Alternative Provision programme and package.

It was agreed that a summary note in relation to the Admissions and Appeals policy which is currently being worked on, will be circulated to members of the Committee.

It was noted that there report on the availability of school places across the county is scheduled to be presented at the Committee meeting in September 2020.

Resolved

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee note and comment on the progress and impact made with the Warwickshire Education (WE) Strategy to date in the 2019/20 school year, as summarised in this Mid-Year Review

5. Warwickshire Education Strategy Update and Refresh

The Committee noted that many of the points included this report had been highlighted and discussed under Item 4 (Warwickshire Education Strategy Annual Review 2019).

It was confirmed that all points raised by the Committee would be used and reflected on by officers.

Resolved

That the Committee note the updates on the Warwickshire Education (WE) Strategy and endorse the recommendations to refresh it based on feedback received from stakeholders setting a refined course for the remaining three years of the five-year strategy.

6. Educational Attainment and School Performance

Ian Budd, Assistant Director - Education Services confirmed to the Committee that due to Covid-19, Summer 2020 assessments and exams have been cancelled for all pupils. Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 exams will be graded through teacher assessments.

The report presented to the Committee included the full data set for 2019 learner outcomes including examination outcomes. Results from Summer 2020 will be shared at the end of the year, but traditional learner outcomes will not be available as normal. Discussions are under way with senior leaders about how best to identify those with additional needs to the year ahead.

Following a question from Councillor Margaret Bell in relation to the attainment gap between learner years across the county it was confirmed that variations between year cohorts is not unusual. Officers and school leaders review trends over longer periods than just a year. The Nuneaton Education Strategy is targeting this area of concern.

Following a discussion about the Multi Academy Trust (MAT) in Nuneaton, the Committee agreed that there were areas for concern. Members requested information in relation to the destination, post-education, of MAT students.

Actions

It was agreed that a briefing note in relation to the Multi Academy Trust in Nuneaton will be shared before the exam results are shared in the Autumn.

Resolved

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the performance of children and young people in Warwickshire schools in statutory national tests. Members are asked to note the disparity in performance across the districts and boroughs and provide support to the Nuneaton Education strategy.

7. DSG Recovery Plan

Duane Chappell, Strategy and Commissioning Manager (SEND & Inclusion) presented the report to the Committee which was a follow up from the report presented at the last Committee meeting and at the Cabinet meeting in June.

It was noted that 31 projects had been identified for change work from the SEND inclusion programme; work is underway on all projects and includes costings. The Committee thanked officers for clearly identifying the 'invest to change' options for each project. It was noted that savings won't be made against every project and that some savings may have to be quantified later. Some proposals identify a better way of working.

Following a question from Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, it was confirmed that information relation to the confidence in each proposal will be included in future reports to the Committee.

Following a question from Councillor Margaret Bell in relation to EHCP's, it was confirmed that not every child with identified needs will be put on an EHCP. Medical needs and other health care needs do not result in an EHCP being used. Each decision is thoroughly thought through and planned because they could be subject to a tribunal if it is applied in error. Once a plan is committed to it is unlikely to change or be removed.

The Chair confirmed that many points from the report had been covered at the previous meeting, but it was agreed that the Committee would write to MP's in relation to their concerns about funding. It was agreed that this action would be added to the recommendation.

Resolved

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the report presented to Cabinet on the DSG Recovery Plan (Appendix A) and makes appropriate recommendations. The Committee will write to the MP's in relation to their concerns about funding.

8. Work Programme

The Committee noted the work programme as submitted with the following additions –

Following a request from Councillor Margaret Bell it was agreed that a report on school placements would be presented to the Committee. Details will be discussed and confirmed at the next Chair and Spokes Meeting (15 September 2020).

It was confirmed that a briefing note in relation to Interim Executive Boards would be circulated to all elected members.

In relation to the Nuneaton Housing Project, it was agreed that an update will be presented at the meeting on 17 November 2020. The Committee requested that young people attend the meeting to give their thoughts on the project. It was confirmed that extended the project to other locations was the intention and that work was underway with district and borough colleagues.

The Committee requested an update in relation to the RISE service. It was agreed that it would be best to hold a special meeting with the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that Helen Barnsley would investigate suitable dates, ideally in the autumn to coincide with the Autism Strategy update planned for the September meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held on 29 September 2020 at 10am.

The meeting will be held virtually via [Microsoft Teams](#).

The meeting rose at xxx

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Chair

Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 23 July 2020

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Yousef Dahmash (Chair)
Councillor Pam Williams (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Margaret Bell
Councillor Jonathan Chilvers
Councillor Corinne Davies
Councillor Peter Gilbert
Councillor Daniel Gissane
Councillor Howard Roberts
Councillor Dominic Skinner
Councillor Chris Williams

1. General

(1) Apologies

None.

(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

2. Election of Chair

Councillor Pete Gilbert proposed that Councillor Yousef Dahmash be Chair of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and was seconded by Councillor Chris Williams. There were no other nominations.

Resolved

That Councillor Yousef Dahmash be Chair of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3. Election of Vice Chair

Councillor Yousef Dahmash proposed that Councillor Pam Williams be Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and was seconded by Councillor Margaret Bell. There were no other nominations.

Resolved

That Councillor Pam Williams be Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Chair

Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 29 September 2020

Children & Young People's Participation Update

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 The Committee note the positive contributions that children and young people (C&YP) have made towards the progress of the Participation and Engagement Strategy 2019-2023.
- 1.2 The Committee consider a cross party group to give impetus to specific priorities raised by C&YP that require more traction.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Committee received a report on 15th January 2019 resulting in the adoption of the Children and Young People's Participation and Engagement Strategy 2019-2023.
- 2.2 The Committee received a report on 12th March 2019 providing an overview and update on the Participation and Engagement of C&YP.
- 2.3 The Committee had requested annual updates on the progress of the Children and Young People's Participation and Engagement Strategy.
- 2.4 This report was originally intended to go to the Committee on 28th April 2020, however, the Committee meeting was cancelled as a result of the public health crisis and lockdown.
- 2.5 This update covers the period April 2019 to March 2020.
- 2.6 The report also considers the implications of Covid-19 on the progress on the Participation and Engagement Strategy from March to September 2020.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no significant financial implications to consider at this stage.

4. Environmental Implications

- 4.1 There are no significant environmental implications to consider at this stage.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 The Participation and Engagement Strategy is primarily concerned with **young people's priorities** listed on page 7 of the strategy.

- 5.2 The work of the Targeted Youth Support and Participation Team.

- a. **Targeted Youth Support.** Over the last year, there have been changes as to how the universal voice of C&YP is listened to. C&YP raise areas of interest to them via the Warwick Youth Council and Youth Forums, which have replaced the previous arrangement of Local Youth Councils and Members of Youth Parliament. **Appendix 1** offers some examples on the work of the Warwickshire Youth Council and Youth Forums from 2019-2020.
- a. **Participation Team.** Over the last year, there has been a marked increase in the number of care experienced young people and young people seeking asylum taking part in participation events and activities. **Appendix 2** provides an outline of the key areas of work from 2019-2020. This programme of work has improved communication with young people and improved the numbers of young people engaging with the service. The Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum have played a significant role in helping to shape the work in the examples listed in the appendix.
- b. The **Children and Families Service** has undertaken a programme of *Restorative Practice Training*. The main purpose behind this training is to support those people using Children and Families services to work at finding their own solutions, as opposed to having solutions provided or imposed onto them. This is a significant cultural change and is participatory in both approach and nature. The restorative training programme and reinforcement of learning is ongoing.

5.3 5 Children and Young People Priorities Areas (page 7 of the strategy)

Councillor Colin Hayfield hosted a series of 3 meetings with C&YP, senior officers from Children & Families, Commissioning and Education over 2019 and early 2020. The aim of these meetings was to give momentum to the priorities identified by C&YP. The priorities areas are 'Keep Healthy', 'Be Safe', 'Have Fun & Do Well', 'Take Part' and 'Think About Your Future'.

a. *Keep Healthy*

C&YP had highlighted the need for better 'access', 'information' and 'support' from emotional wellbeing and mental health services.

An update from Commissioning Services on Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services for young people is attached as **Appendix 3**.

This also includes the Commissioning Service Business Continuity. The Business Continuity Plan illustrates services available to C&YP during the public health crisis.

In addition, care experienced young people have access to services to support their emotional wellbeing and health via the **Care Leavers Offer**. Some examples include access to the gym, access to a mentor, access to staying healthy and wellbeing workshops, etc.

Care experienced young people had also identified "regular communication with people important to (them)" as a priority. Currently, due to the public health crisis, any **Family Time** takes place via online communication. The Children and Families service is gradually re-introducing face-to-face **Family Time** that is risk assessed to ensure the safety of all those involved. In the future, there is good potential to explore both virtual and face-to-face Family Time meetings as an option to improve regular communication.

As part of their work, the Warwickshire Youth Council have contributed to the JSNA to help establish the health and social needs of the Warwickshire youth population. An officer from Public Health and strategic commissioning met with the Warwickshire Youth Council to explore the health and wellbeing needs of young people in Warwickshire.

C&YP had equally prioritised an "increase (in) funding and support for young carers". The Warwickshire Young Carers contract has a value of £130,000 per annum for 3 years. The contract ends Sept 2022. There is also an IBCF (Improved Better Care Fund) winter fund of £10K to support young carers this year.

b. Be safe

An update from Education on C&YP's need to "feel safe (especially online) and in schools", "be supported by someone we trust" and be given "support to deal with difficult situations" is in the table below.

Outcomes	Themes	Children & Young People's Priorities
Be Safe	Bullying/Peer Pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want to feel safe (especially online) and in schools • We want to be supported by someone we trust • We want support to deal with difficult situations <p>Online safeguarding has been a priority of WCC's safeguarding support to schools and has taken on even greater importance with so many Children and Young People studying online at home due to the coronavirus lockdown. It is a standing item for the Warwickshire Safe Partnership board with representatives from several of WCC's partners including the police. Safeguarding training sessions and events held with schools have also included lessons to learn on e-safety.</p> <p>Over the past few months, WCC's safeguarding support has been reorganised to increase our impact in this area. Investment will now come from multiple units across the council to provide a broader offer of support for all educational settings, children and families.</p> <p>This support will continue to feature training sessions on e-safety as part of the wider safeguarding training and support which we hope will facilitate a supportive and safe learning environment for Children and Young People.</p>

c. *Have Fun and Do Well*

C&YP indicated that they would like to see more “long term worthwhile jobs”, better “information about alternative routes into jobs”, and “more support into further education” for those who have been excluded or have disabilities. An update is attached in the table below from Education.

Outcomes	Themes	Children & Young People's Priorities
Have Fun and Do Well	Education and Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need more support into employment that moves us into long term worthwhile jobs • We need more support into further education. For example: for children & young people with disabilities: help finding new schools after exclusion or moving, sixth form, colleges and universities • We need more information about alternative routes into jobs, rather than the usual ones like college and university <p>One of the four key priorities of the Warwickshire Education Strategy is to champion employability. This priority has its own detailed work programme, the Warwickshire Careers Strategy, which outlines five key action areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raising the awareness of the range of career and employment opportunities locally, inspiring residents of all ages to develop their education and skills as far as possible 2. Building the capacity of our education providers to deliver effective and sustainable careers support and advice 3. Providing targeted support and help to our most vulnerable learners 4. Improving alignment of demand and supply of skills, now and in the future 5. Encouraging and enabling businesses to recruit from a richer and wider talent pool <p>Some key projects ongoing in this area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranging Supported Internships for children with an EHC Plan providing better experience of and opportunities for paid employment post-education for our learners with high needs. As of May 2020 there were 56 supported interns in Warwickshire. The ambition is to increase the number annually. • Warwickshire Careers Hub established and integrated with WCC's Skills for Employment programme which will give schools and colleges in the hub access to further support and funding • Apprenticeship promotion – a series of events have been hosted by WCC promoting apprenticeship opportunities • Supported 6,000 pupils with the Digital School House project that provides a creative, digital careers education in a series of events across Warwickshire. • An ongoing project is to deliver the ‘My World of Work’ project to raise awareness of careers and employment opportunities in the county’s priority sectors • Establish the Youth Employment Platform to operate as an

		<p>Advisory Group to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to create a youth friendly West Midlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer of work experience opportunities at Warwickshire County Council• Developing Careers Leaders in schools and colleges is a key priority of our Skills for Employment programme <p>For information on your post-16 options and opportunities, please visit https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/post-16-college-education</p>
	Wider Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We need a wide-ranging curriculum that teaches us important life skills so that we can be as independent as an adult. For example: sustainable living, taxes, political education, education on laws, sex education and health

Curriculum development was highlighted in the Warwickshire Education Strategy Review 2019 as one of three key areas in the strategy that needed greater attention.

In the refreshed Education Strategy that followed, to be launched in September 2020, curriculum development will be a key workstream for the Warwickshire Family of Schools priority with the Education Challenge Board responsible for overseeing this programme of work.

Following the partial closure of schools during the pandemic, what we teach and how we deliver it has taken on even more importance. Hence, we will be focusing both upon ways to promote greater breadth and the different tools that we can use to communicate with. The events of recent months have raised school's awareness of virtual learning and we want to consider how the lessons learnt can be incorporated into our continuing work.

We also want to ensure that the wide range of different curriculum materials developed by schools during this period continue to be used going forward. We want to promote flexibility and breadth so that we can equip all Warwickshire students with the skills that they need for adult life.

Furthermore, care experienced young people have access to services via the **Care Leavers Offer**. This includes ring-fenced apprenticeship opportunities, driving lessons, access to Drop-Ins to support with seeking employment, support with Universal Credit applications, access to grants supporting education and learning via Baradell/Tiffin/EET funds, an offer additional tutoring for Maths and English, access to a Careers Advisor, etc.

The Warwickshire Youth Council are in communication with an officer in Warwickshire Education Services to develop a better understanding of the Warwickshire Education Strategy Annual Review 2020. The C&YP's "Have Your Say Survey", has highlighted that "work experience and careers advice" is still very important to young people in Warwickshire.

d. Take Part.

C&YP felt they “need to be better prepared for adulthood”. An update is attached in the table below from Education.

Take Part	Life Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to be better prepared for adulthood and adult life <p>The main aim of the Warwickshire Education Strategy is to improve educational outcomes, and therefore the life chances, of learners of all ages in Warwickshire.</p> <p>We believe that preparation for adulthood starts in the Early Years and continues throughout school life starting with a high-quality and diverse education in a safe learning environment that empowers children and young people to grow.</p> <p>Through, the education strategy, we will continue to work with schools, other education providers and our partners so that children and young people in Warwickshire feel better prepared for adulthood and adult life.</p>

Care experienced young people were keen to be better prepared for independent living by being, “shown and trained how to cook, clean, wash, shop, manage money, etc”. Warwickshire have commissioned Doorway to provide accredited independence training for young people.

Currently, alternative options are being explored via the Warwickshire House Project to consider introducing an online programme of learning accessed via the National House Project.

Care experienced young people can access additional services via the **Care Leavers Offer**. This includes mentoring to support the journey toward independence, council tax reimbursements, a home furnishing grant, access to a ‘pop-up shop’ set up by care experienced young people, etc. There is also an increased focus on supporting foster carers through training to nurture improved independence skills with care experienced young people.

Equality, respect, listening, and promoting positive stories, featured as priorities for C&YP. There are ongoing opportunities for C&YP to raise issues on ‘equality and respect’, and for C&YP to be heard at the most senior levels of the organisation. The positive participation and engagement of C&YP is shared more widely through staff blogs, internal online newsletters, videos and local media (**See Appendix 1 & 2**).

The Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum have had regular dialogue with officers of the Council on specific subject areas, with a view to improving the experience of those C&YP who come into the care of Warwickshire. **Appendix 2** provides some examples of where care experienced young people have shaped service design and delivery.

There has been very little progress on young people's priority on giving "16 and 17-year olds the right to vote in elections and referendums". The scope of Warwickshire to make this decision is limited. Continued support for young people to pursue this campaign is ongoing and a continued option. Nonetheless, the Warwickshire Youth Council has gathered views of Warwickshire young people on voting at 16 and raised awareness through a presentation shared with secondary schools.

The **Stratford** youth forum have launched a film project to encourage young people to share their views about where they live.

The **Rugby** youth forum has had lots of political focus on Brexit and the 2019 General Election. As a result, 3 young people have joined different political parties.

The **Nuneaton and Bedworth** youth forum have carried out surveys to ascertain issues important to C&YP. The forum met with Marcus Jones MP, to update him on their county campaigns. Members of the forum have started volunteering with voluntary youth agencies, using their skills and knowledge to make sure the voice of young people is heard.

The **Warwick** youth forum completed a public survey on attitudes to knife crime. They held discussions about Brexit and completed a survey with Warwick University on this issue. Young people also voiced their concerns about cuts in bus services to their local Councillor and were pleased with the results, as their school bus service remains unchanged.

The **North Warwickshire** youth forum held a successful Q&A session with their local MP, Craig Tracy. Mr. Tracy was quizzed on issues such as the removal of politics from school teaching, curriculum for life, racial abuse, Brexit, teenage pregnancy, knife crime, and male suicide. The forum also did some volunteer work with a local organisation called RISE, by helping at an open event and encouraging more young people to access the service. The forum decided that they wanted to learn more about male suicide, so they invited a guest speaker from RISE to learn about how they could help others, they then filtered this information back to a local school within their area.

e. *Think About Your Future*

Young people have campaigned to introduce the national “Living Wage”. There has been no progress or change in respect to this priority.

Young people have campaigned over several years to “make public transport cheaper, better and accessible”. Despite having held many discussions with elected members and officers over the years, there has been no agreed way forward.

C&YP people have also taken part in a survey to highlight concerns they have around their future. The survey has highlighted that young people are concerned about the environment, services for young people and their safety. These are new emerging priorities.

5.4 ***Emerging Priorities for Children and Young People***

A survey carried out with young people in Jan/Feb 2020 received 1374 responses from young people. The emerging issues were as follows:

- a. **Environment** – Reducing plastic waste, pollution and endangered species
- b. **Safety** – Support for mental health, tackling knife crime and anti-bullying
- c. **Services for young people** – More careers advice and work experience, tackling youth homelessness, and curriculum for life.

Safety and Services for C&YP have been repeat themes that have appeared annually in surveys with C&YP over several years. Environment is a growing area of concern for C&YP.

5.5 ***The Impact of Covid-19.***

The public health crisis has had an impact on the momentum of direct work with C&YP. The very nature of participation and engagement necessitates a degree of direct work with C&YP.

Fortunately, for Warwickshire, the roll out of new technologies, such as the Surface Pro and Microsoft Teams, has allowed for newer ways of working to be considered and implemented.

Some examples of how work has been adapted to enable ongoing participation and engagement work with C&YP is as follows:

- a. Food parcels delivered to young people most in need
- b. Baby gift boxes for new care experienced young parents
- c. Completion of a 20-minute training film for professionals, foster carers, and elected members, on the experiences of young people seeking asylum when they first arrive in the UK
- d. Roll out of laptops to care experienced young people to enable ongoing communications
- e. TikTok videos by staff and young people

- f. Video messages about Covid-19 and support for mental health/wellbeing by young people for young people
 - g. Online quizzes, cooking classes, bingo, Netflix film reviews by young people
 - h. Young people taking part in online WCC interview panels
 - i. Young people participating in online national and regional conferences,
 - j. Online music club
 - k. Online Warwick Youth Council meetings
 - l. Online Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum meetings
 - m. Allotment Project
 - n. Online mentoring scheme for care experienced young people
 - o. Development of an improved feedback survey
 - p. Online summer activities programme
 - q. An online peer to peer mentoring programme for young people
- 5.6 There has been a significant learning curve for both professionals and C&YP on learning new skills within the scope of existing and emerging computer technology.
- 5.7 One distinct positive is that there has been an increase in C&YP engaging with online activities from those who previously did not or could not participate. The downside is that some C&YP do not feel comfortable with online activities. There are C&YP that still prefer face-to-face contact. There is also some evidence of C&YP feeling increased levels of anxiety and worry as a result of longer periods of isolation and loneliness. Care experienced young people are more susceptible to feeling vulnerable at this time.
- 5.8 There is good potential in the future to operate a combination of both online and face-to-face activities with C&YP.
- 5.9 As restrictions ease there may be more opportunity to work with C&YP on a 1:1 face-to-face basis, following Government guidance and appropriate risk assessments. This situation is gradually being updated and requires ongoing monitoring.

6. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 6.1 That the Committee consider a cross-party group to consider the three areas that have not progressed - voting for 16/17-year olds, living wage and public transport.
- 6.2 That the Committee acknowledge the Emerging Priorities for C&YP and absorb them, as part of the Participation and Engagement strategy.
- 6.3 That the work associated with the Participation Strategy features as part of the recovery plan for Warwickshire, in line with County Council advice and guidance.

Appendices

1. Targeted Youth Support Work Programme Examples
2. Children & Families Participation Annual Report 2019-2020
3. Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health services for young people updated July & Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health Business Continuity Plan

Supporting Documents

1. Children & Young People's Participation & Engagement Strategy 2019-2023
2. Children & Young People's Participation & Engagement Strategy 2019-2023, Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee 15th January 2019
3. Children & young People's Presentation on Participation, Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee 12th March 2019

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WYC
&
YOUTH FORUM WORK
2019/20



Page 26

Warwickshire Youth Council welcomes new members night!

"I decided to get involved in the Warwickshire Youth Council as I felt that young people are often ignored, and I wanted to do more to raise awareness of issues around mental health and safety on the streets for both girls and boys."

"Climate change is absolutely the biggest threat to us, and young people are leading the way in doing something about it."

Living in Stratford Film Project

Stratford Youth Forum invited young people to create films telling their story of life in Stratford district.

Isaac Searle said: "We're looking for creativity, great stories and films that are fun to watch. We don't mind how the film has been shot and want to be as inclusive as possible so if you need support to tell your story, please get in touch. "Whatever your story is, we want to hear it."

Support was received from Warwickshire county councillor Dominic Skinner "The Stratford Youth Forum is a great platform for young people to get their voices heard and the film competition will really cast some light on the issues that matter to youth of our district.





Youth Parliament member Thea Mort spoke at a protest held in Leamington about the visit of Donald Trump to the UK.



Warwick Youth Parliament members were part of the Youth Strike for Climate movement which took place outside Leamington town hall and on the Parade.

Members of Youth Parliament visited the House of Commons



Youth Parliament member Thea Mort was presented with Warwick Rotary Club's Peace Trophy





WYC in action!

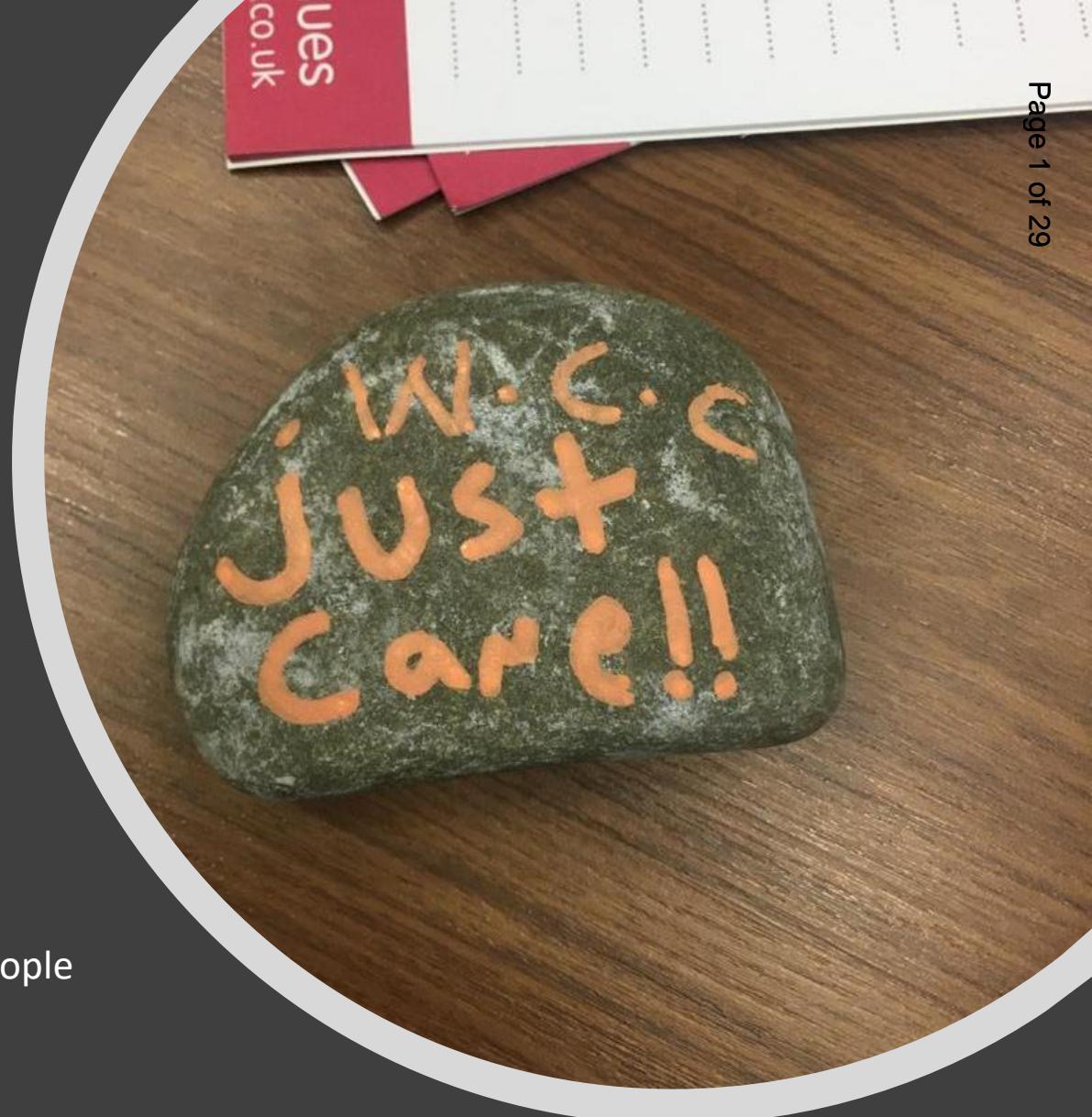


Participation Events Annual Report Jan 2019 – Dec 2019



Page 29

A summary of key events and the benefits to children and young people





WCC Apprenticeships & Work Experience

- Initial period of awareness building with the Apprenticeship Hub on additional support required for care experienced young people
- 2 apprentices initially 2018 - pilot
- 3 apprentices in the second cohort 2019
- 3 apprentices in the third cohort 2019
- 8 in total
- 4 finished or nearly finished qualification of which 2 secured full time roles within WCC in 2020
- 2 did not complete
- 7 WCC work experience placements offered of which 4 did not attend
- 10 apprenticeships external to WCC, 4 of which did not complete

Art Escape Workshops

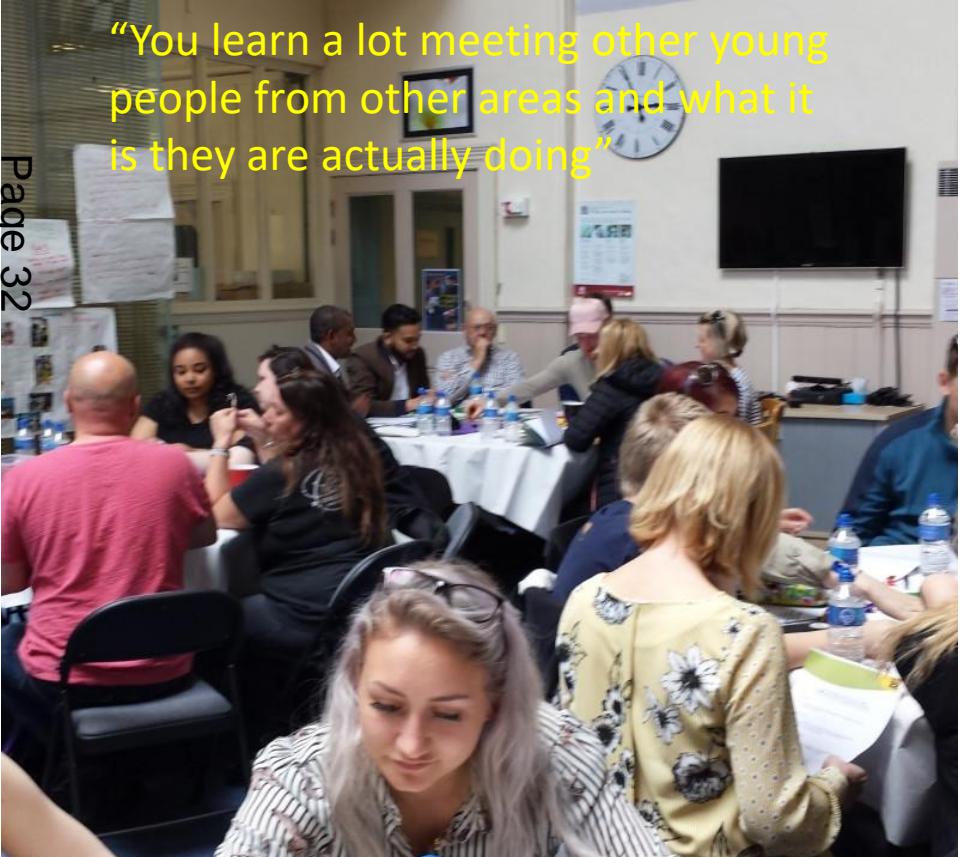
- 12 young asylum people cared for by Warwickshire participated in an “Art Escape” workshop
- They described their journeys and what challenges they faced when they were travelling from the African continent to the UK
- Each young person (female and male) had a different story to tell and these workshops helped young people to give clear messages about how they felt during their journey
- These workshops gave workers a deeper understanding of the journeys that young people experienced and what support they may need
- This work provides a visual representation of the hardships young people had to face whilst trying to get to the UK
- Young people found it easier to express themselves through their art and what an amazing job they did!



Young People Benchmarking Form & National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum

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"You learn a lot meeting other young people from other areas and what it is they are actually doing"

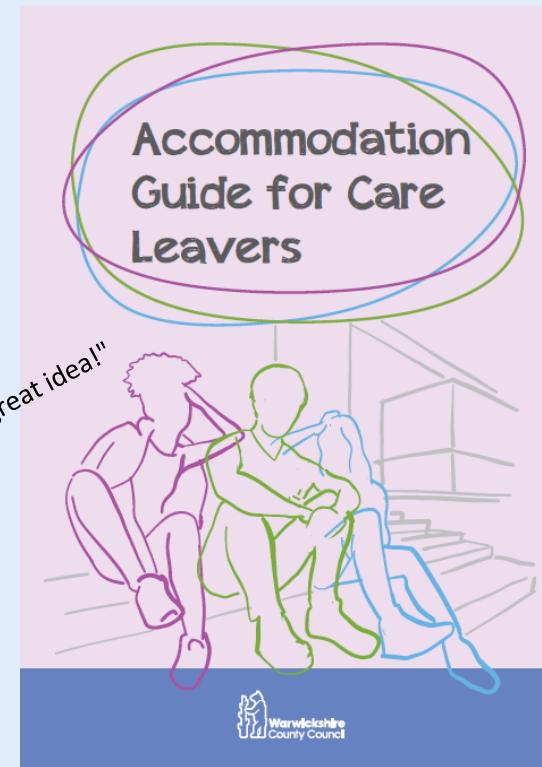
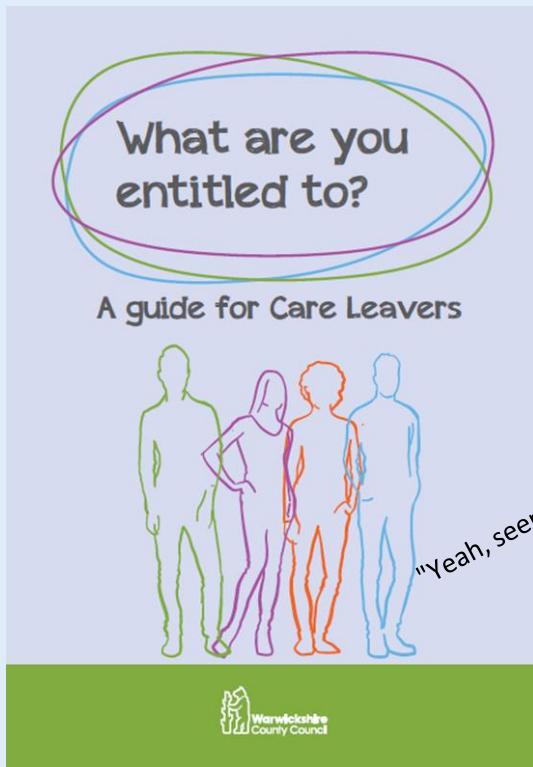


- Both of these forums are run by a national charity to help improve the quality of leaving care services
- Young people get the opportunity to influence the national agenda and showcase good practice from WCC
- Jan 17th YPBMF - 2 young people in Hull
- 13th Feb NLCBMF - 2 young people in Birmingham
- 8th May YPBMF in Sussex - no one
- 10-12th July NLCBMF – Team Leader attended
- 17th Sept Birmingham Studio - no one
- 13th to 15th November – 1 young person attended in Leeds as a “young person's champion” from WCC
- Weds 22nd Jan YPBMF Coventry – 2 young people attended from WCC



Care Leavers Offer/Accommodation Guide

Page 33



- In January 2018, the Care Leavers Offer booklet was co-produced by the leaving care team, and young people. The Accommodation Guide co-produced with Commissioning
- Both booklets have been very beneficial for young people to help them access their rights and entitlements
- The booklets are embedded in the Pathway Plan – a meeting that takes place with young people twice a year to help them prepare towards independence
- A recent short survey with 40 young people showed us that 35 young people had an awareness of the "What are you entitled to" booklet
- Young people have less of an awareness of the Accommodation Guide.
- Both booklets have reduced the level of inconsistencies that existed between staff and young people
- The entitlements booklet is currently being reviewed using a national audit tool
- "Yeah... seen this, think it's a great idea. I know where to look now" - Young person

Coventry Uni and Warwick Uni

- Page 34
- 26th Jan Warwick University - 4 young people went to meet with BA Social Work students to share young people's perspectives of being in care
 - 19th March World Social Workday – 2 young people shared their thoughts on being in care at a conference in Coventry University
 - 24th June UASC conference – one young person attended a conference at Coventry University to talk about their experience as a young person seeking asylum
 - 2nd November - 5 young people met with second year MA students to discuss the quality of support they receive from social workers
 - Hearing from young people had a powerful lasting impact on audiences whether a large conference or small focus group
 - "After listening to the young people my idea of social work has shifted from what I thought it was" - BA student



Care Leavers Covenant Launch

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- On Friday 15th February businesses were invited to learn about the Care Leavers Covenant at Old Shire Hall in Warwick
- Approximately 20 businesses attended
- 2 young people spoke passionately about how being given an employment opportunity can transform the lives of young people
- The previous Childrens Minister attended and supported the event with his speech
- Following the event some of the businesses offered opportunities for young people for example, Wright Hassell Solicitors offered a week's work experience opportunity which was taken up by one young person
- Many of the businesses that attended commented that listening to the young people was "a big eye opener" for them



SECTIONS WITHIN THE STRATEGY

Information section

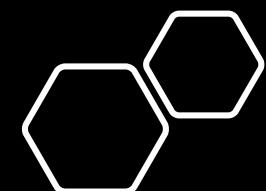
We will do our best - our commitment 3
 What is participation and why should we do it? 4
 What is the national and local situation? 5
 Children and Young People's priorities 6

Strategy section

Where are we now? Where are we going? 8
 Making this happen - how will we get there and what does success look like? 10
 What's next? 11



- Participation Strategy Agreed
- Pledge to Children in Care Updated
- Posters to promote the Pledge circulated



Setting Up Home Furnishing Grant



The changes made to the Setting Up Home Furnishing Grant have been beneficial to many care leavers moving into their own property



Feedback from young people had highlighted that the grant was not fit for purpose



It did not cover the costs of the main items needed to set up a home. It was out of date with many items on the list no longer the same price as the allocated price, there was little flexibility and some items were provided with no choice available



The updated grant is still being piloted until the end of March 2020



Initial feedback from young people is positive



There is also much more flexibility giving the young person more choice and scope to make their house "a home"

Grandmentors Scheme

- Started April 2019 - the Grandmentors can help guide, advise and support young people
- One of those matches is LS with her mentor JW. After carrying out weekly visits at various coffee shops for the past 3 months, LS has shown some progress with an increase in her confidence to make her own decisions and to ask questions that concern her well-being and independence. She had already got an apprenticeship with a nursery in Leamington when she was matched but has now started a course that links in with her work experience and has also completed a First Aid course. Having JW has been a useful resource for her to keep her on track, and a reminder that positive changes are possible. LS also finds it useful to have regular chats with JW so that she doesn't have to keep worries, or even good news to herself. She has someone to share it with that has no direct connection to social services
- 11 matches have been made
- 38 volunteer mentors recruited
- 3 referrals left to match!
- BBC Radio and television have reported on this scheme
- A separate Peer to Peer Mentoring Project has also started this year with the House Project and one is planned with the Asylum Team

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Farzana Topia @farzana_t... · 18/10/2019
Introducing Nasrdeen to his #Grandmento...
Team today along with his PA Charlotte o...



WARWICKSHIRE **STARS**



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Star Awards

- On Thursday 23rd May, Liss, Katherine, Umar Charity and Courtney attended the Star Awards that took place in Warwick
- The Star Awards is an awards evening to celebrate staff achievements
- Umar was awarded Apprentice of the Year
- The Team received the Chairman's Special Award



Regular Groups

- NEET Group – There are 2 groups one in the North and one in being promoted in the South.
- Chill n Grill - Weds evening social event. Young people can also raise any ideas or issues of concern to them.
- Kitchen Session - Tues mornings to help young people learn about easy recipes, budgeting and food hygiene
- Bike Project – Tuesday nights young people can strip a bike down, rebuild it and learn valuable road safety skills.
- Football Group – There are 2 groups. One on Sunday which is a training day. The other on a Monday as part of a league in Coventry
- CiCC/CLF – once a month young people can meet to share ideas and thoughts with officers from the council. There are a range of activities and opportunities to help improve the quality of services to children cared for by WCC
- Interviews & Training- Young people take part in interviews within the council to help appoint staff and co-deliver training to staff
- Tiffin Club & Baradell Fund- These are charities which can help a young person to achieve other educational goals or hobbies.



Young People Being Heard

Page 41

- Mtg Chief Exec – 4 young people met with Monica Fogarty in April 2019. This inspired a re-in vigoured focus on young people cared by Warwickshire
- Leader of the Council – hosted a meeting to consult young people on the Council Plan in Dec 2019
- Children & Families SLT – care experienced are invited to attend Senior Leadership Team Meeting to raise and discuss topics that have been identified as important by young people in care
- Corporate Parenting Panel- care experienced apprentices are invited to this meeting to contribute to discussions
- Children's Overview & Scrutiny - receive and update on the Participation Strategy from young people once a year

Young Inspectors

Page 42

- 8 Inspections were completed on supported accommodation throughout the summer 2019
- The quality of the accommodation varied
- Overall there had been some physical improvements to buildings following the Young Inspections in 2018
- The quality of support towards independence for young people living in supported accommodation remains a key concern for young people
- "My sister is 18 next year there is no way I'd let her live in something like this'
- 'I'm 21 I've not been supported to leave here.'
- Findings and reports are provided to the quality and performance team within commissioning



Pop Up Shop

- Page 43
- The pop-up shop was created within the Asylum & Leaving Care team at Myton Park
 - How this shop works - staff within WCC and people outside of WCC donate items
 - Example of items that are gifted include,
 - Clothes & shoes
 - Long life foods
 - Home items (kitchenware, lamps, heaters)
 - Bedding
 - Baby items
 - Books & and much more
 - The shop is accessed by young people when there are events, when regular groups meet, or they attend with their worker
 - It is low cost for WCC but good and effective for young people
 - Feedback from young people has been very positive



Refugee Celebration Week

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- “Refugee Week is important because it reminds us that refugees are not just statistics to be used and abused, they are living, breathing people. I am British, I was born here and I have no intention of leaving here, so I want to create a society here where compassion is built into our culture.” **Benjamin Zephaniah, Poet**
- On 17th June a celebration event was held at Old Shire Hall, Warwick
- Over 100 attendees at the event. Food, music, and an awards night



London & Other Trips Out

- In 2019 young people had the opportunity to take part in a social outing. One in April the other in August
- Over 80 young people in total participated
- It was an amazing opportunity for young people to visit a new place but also be able to meet lots of new people in a new environment



C&F conferences

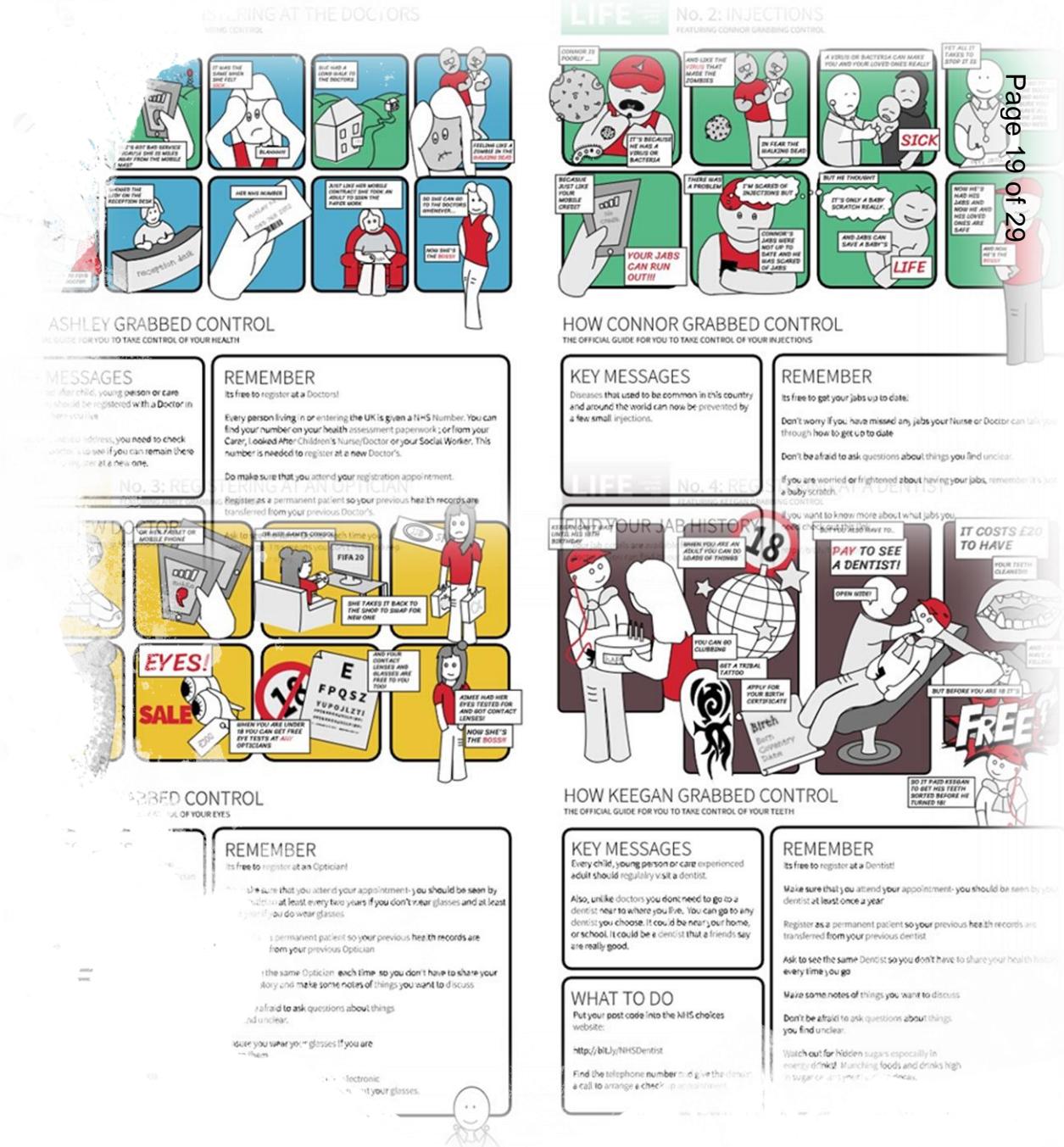
- 8th July Bedworth Civic Hall
 - 15th July Benn Hall (plus one other)
 - 16th July Warwick Racecourse
 - 20th Sept Pound Lane
-
- 2 young people were involved in delivering a presentation to all Children & Families staff over 5 separate conferences
 - They talked about Participation and how this way of working can make positive changes to improve public services



NHS Grab Guides

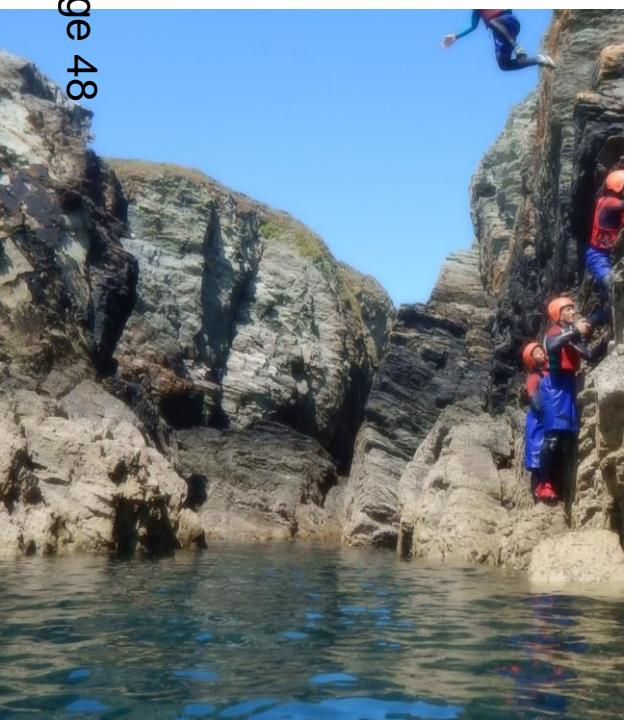
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- 4 guides for children looked after produced in partnership with the NHS
- Registering with a Doctor
- Registering with an Optician
- Getting all your immunisations
- Registering with a Dentist
- June 2019 - Met with young people in Warwickshire
- July 2019 - Sketches drawn by a professional artist
- August 2019 - Re-visited young people in Warwickshire
- September 2019 - Recorded young people's voices to accompany sketches and videos
- Guides are now available for young people to access



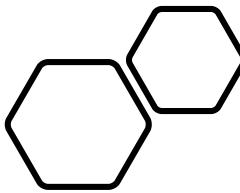


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Marle Hall x 2

- Week beginning 23rd July – Care Leavers building resilience
- Week beginning 20th Aug – Young people seeking Asylum having new experiences



Aqua Park Rutland Water

- Young people from the CiCC and CLF took part in a trip to Aqua Park in Rutland on 21st August
- This was to recognise that young people volunteer their time
- "I feel it really shows that they (staff) are wanting to spend time with young people and builds a good working relationship with young people"
- One young person was too nervous and didn't want to come into the water
- He had a greater fear of water than he realised. However, with encouragement he slowly got into the water and became more confident
- With the opportunity for him to experience that fear he was able to overcome it
- Once in, he shot off to do the activity without a thought and thoroughly enjoyed himself for the rest of the day!





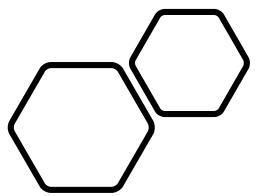
Virtual School Awards

- Sun 15th Sept – the awards took place
- This is the 3rd year of the new look awards
- The awards are less formal and more fun – lots of activities for children and young people as well as foster carers and staff
- Now a permanent change from the very formal award ceremony - initiated by young people

Foster Carers Workshop

- Weds 25th Sept over 130 foster carers took part in a conference held at Bulkington Village Hall
- 3 young people delivered a very powerful workshop on their journey to the UK from the African Continent
- Foster carers found the stories very touching, emotional and upsetting
- Foster carers said that they gained a valuable insight into what it means for young people who have gone through these experiences and what support would be helpful to them once they arrive in the UK

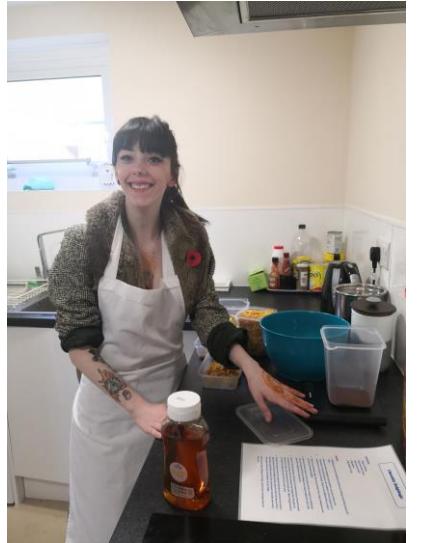




Care Experienced Week

- Page 52**
- Care Experience Week began on the 28th Oct ad ran through until the 1st October.
 - Monday 15 YP go-karting.
 - Tuesday 8 YP baking and henna at Myton drop in
 - Wednesday Animal Man, exhibitions, BBQ, lots of cakes, Pop Up Shop, Bike Project and a rock-climbing fundraiser.
 - Thursday 15 YP cinema and pizza at Portland house
 - Friday 15 YP bowling.
 - The theme of the Care Experienced Week was #dearfutureme
 - Young people were also asked to write a message to their future selves
 - "This feels like a family party!"
 - The event was received very positively by young people





Care Experienced Week

More photos from the event

Accessing Files Workshop

- 22nd November - Ree's Foundation funded a workshop for young people to learn how to access their personal file
- The person running the workshop was care experienced and had accessed their own file
- 7 young people attended this workshop
- Young people commented that the process to access their file is more complicated than they first realised
- They also commented that the files may not provide the information that they are hoping to get
- One young person said that she felt that she had a better understanding and felt more confident to ask for her files Especially knowing now what to expect and how to do it. She is currently asking about accessing her files



Filming young people talking about their journey

- Dec 2019 work started on creating a film to record the experience of young people seeking asylum when they first arrive in the UK
- The film will include the diversity of young people that have arrived in Warwickshire
- The film will be used to inform new arrivals of what to expect
- The film will also be used to train foster carers and staff
- Translation services have supported in the production of the film
- This film will be part of a series to follow
- It provides a positive resource to hear directly from young people on what works well and what needs further improvement

Christmas & Boxing Day Party

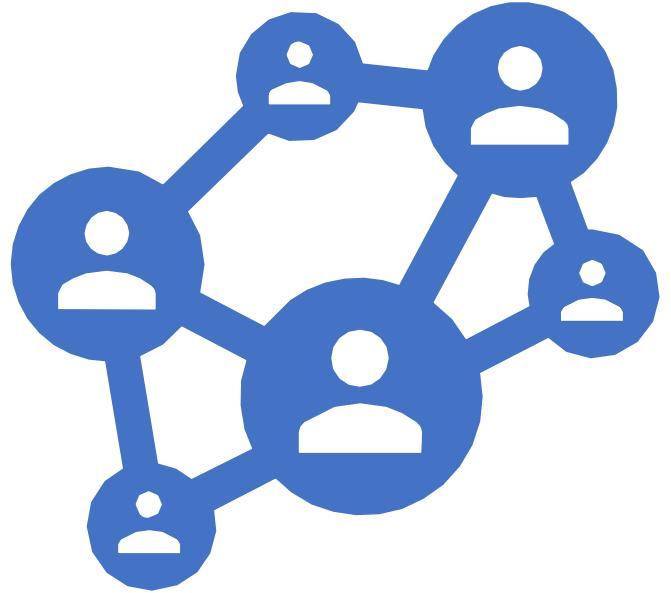
- 2nd Dec Parent and Baby Group an Xmas get together for young parents
- 9th Dec St Nicholas Church Hall Nuneaton, an event for over 100 young people to get together and enjoy the Christmas season
- 18th Dec Young Asylum Seekers, the party took place at Myton Drop in. The atmosphere was fantastic different cultures, music and dancing
- 26th Dec Myton Drop In, a boxing day Xmas Day meal was available to young people who would have been on their own

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So what?

- It's social
- Reduces isolation and loneliness
- Helps improve emotional health and well being
- An opportunity they may otherwise not get
- It's not formal
- Builds trust
- Reaches young people we do not otherwise reach
- Better engagement
- Picks up any potential risks early
- Creates opportunities for young people to volunteer
- Provides ongoing feedback
- Alerts us to things that are not working
- Helps us to reflect on our service culture and our approaches
- It's fun!



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Rise - Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services for young people update February 2020 (Updated July 2020)

18-25 extended service offer	<p>Current Offer</p> <p>The Rise service offers an emotional wellbeing and mental health service for children and young people under the age of 18.</p> <p>Areas to be developed further</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish an 18-25 transitional pathway for those moving from children/ young people's service into adult mental health services • Work has been identified and is taking place through the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Transformation Plan (LTP) and Transformation Operational Group (TOG) to plan the next steps and time frame for the extended service. • A newly appointed workstream has been suggested to formulate a plan of action in the development of the 18-25 part of the Rise service. • All stakeholders will be included in engagement through workshops to develop and shape the extended provision.
Community Offer	<p>Current offer:</p> <p>Prevention and Early Intervention</p> <p>The Big Umbrella is an early intervention project aimed at building young people's resilience and equipping them with the skills to manage and maintain good mental wellbeing.</p> <p>CW Mind deliver the Big Umbrella programme which includes whole school assemblies, resilience workshops, one to one support for children within schools. Workshops and 1:1 sessions are offered to children in year 6 and above.</p> <p>CW Mind also deliver a range of emotional wellbeing group interventions around issues such as anxiety and low mood as well as access to Relate counselling sessions. A number of these groups and sessions are delivered from the community partnership venues.</p>

	<p>Rise also deliver a school age incredible years course (14-week parenting course). The course is aimed at strengthening parent and child interactions and attachment. The first sessions delivered in Nuneaton and Bedworth were oversubscribed and now being delivered across Warwickshire.</p> <p>Mental Health Interventions for School Children (MHISC)</p> <p>Children accessing Early Help also have access to targeted interventions via the MHISC Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The MHISC framework provides a range of interventions for lower level emotional difficulties• CWPT work in collaboration with WCC's Early Help team, providers and clinical experts to provide quality, tailored support for Warwickshire's children and young people who have received an Early Help Single Assessment.• The MHISC is a framework of providers offering a variety of interventions: one to one counselling, Creative Arts Therapy and Play Therapy. The work supports key priorities in the Warwickshire Education Strategy and is highly valued by Schools. <p>Primary Mental Health Teams</p> <p>The PMHT implement one to one consultation, training and outreach to families and professionals as a core part of a community offer within all 5 localities across Warwickshire. These community locations deliver a range of bookable information sessions and group work, one to one consultation as well as providing a base for outreach staff to work in the community (including schools) within Warwickshire with an aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote Mental Health Awareness• Reduce Stigma• Increase knowledge and skills of universal professionals• Promote resilience, prevention and early intervention• Develop community Partnership work <p>Primary Mental Health Team deliver several workshops to professionals and continue to provide consultation advice and support to professionals concerned about a child's emotional wellbeing and mental health.</p>
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	<p>Parents can also access a number of 1-1 bookable consultations with a clinician and/or coffee mornings/workshops on a variety of topics for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding and supporting children aged 3-11years with anxiety • Understanding and managing challenging behaviours in children aged 4—12 years • Understanding and supporting young people aged 12-18 years with self-harm • Understanding and supporting healthy emotional development for children aged 3-11 years • Understanding and supporting children and young people for school refusal. • Understanding Sensory Needs in school aged children • Understanding and supporting Siblings <p>Areas to be developed further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing take up of the Big Umbrella offer to schools across Warwickshire • Increasing and widening the community offer to include drop in's for parent/carers and Children and young people and extended days and hours of operation. • Engagement with local community and third sector partners to further developing the community partnerships and looking at the appetite of replicating the successful South Warwickshire Mental Health Partnership to the North of the county through extended use of the Abbey Centre in Nuneaton. - First initial meeting held with partners to discuss the concept of this and next steps.
Digital Offer	<p>Current offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWPT commission HEALIOS to deliver online Cognitive Behavioural Therapy support to children and young people. • Think Ninja app – CWPT have purchased the Think Ninja app for all CYP within the Early Help teams who have access to the Foundation app.

- The Rise website has been redesigned giving it a new look and making it easier to navigate. Service generated video content has been added to give young people accessing the site a better understanding of the service offer.
- Development and updating of the RISE website will remain an ongoing project and link to the refreshed joint WCC and CWPT communication plan. The developments were coproduced with children and young people who continue to engage in further developments and improvements around content and information.
- The Rise website has information and support resources available for young people to support their mental health and emotional wellbeing through links to factsheets, self-help apps, external support websites and a confidential text support service.

<https://cwrise.com/for-young-people>

and for parent/carers

<https://cwrise.com/parent-and-carer-resources>

<https://cwrise.com/for-parents>

- Dimensions online tool continues to be utilised across Warwickshire with the website recently being updated and relaunched. The tool provides information, advice, and signposting based on the information provided by the person completing and it is completely anonymous. This provides additional intelligence around the need for mental health and neurodevelopmental conditions in children and young people.

<https://dimensions.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/>

Areas to be developed further:

- CWPT are developing e-consultation services, an online referral portal and exploring digital solutions such chat health working with partners, GPs and children and their families
- Increased offer to include online Chat function, Skype, text messaging, additional information videos and webinars.
- Dimensions tool - data to be uploaded onto the data app dashboard so it can be analysed alongside service activity and population health data, to inform service planning and delivery.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing access of the Think Ninja app through extra funding application by CWPT
Trailblazer Projects	<p>Current offer:</p> <p>Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) are new services designed to support mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in and around schools and colleges</p> <p>Mental Health Support Teams are based around schools acting as a link with children and young people's mental health services. The team is currently made up of Emotional Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs) who are being trained to deliver low-level CBT interventions to children, young people and parents.</p> <p>This means that children, young people and their parents can access mental health earlier and being based in schools means the MHSTs are accessible.</p> <p>The MHSTs will develop models of early intervention on mild to moderate mental health and emotional wellbeing issues, such as anxiety, behavioural difficulties or friendship issues, as well as providing help to staff within a school and college setting.</p> <p>South Warwickshire is one of only twelve areas nationally which successfully won the bid together with Rise to develop both trailblazer programmes:</p> <p><u>Schools named in the NHS Mental Health Trailblazer Project: South Warwickshire</u></p> <p>9 schools have had Educational Mental Health Practitioners (EMHP) trainees - Myton, Coton End, Cubbington, North Leamington, Thomas Jolyffe, Stratford on Avon (Stratford upon Avon schools had trainees, but it didn't fit in with what they wanted so have since decided not to take part), Alcester Academy and Bidford.</p> <p>There are now trainees in Studley, and the following have expressed an interest in having trainees rolled out to them next</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wotton Wawen Campion Sydenham

- Clapham Terrace
- St John's

Welcombe Hills, Arden Fields, and Salford Priors all withdrew from the trailblazer project.

4 Week Waits (4WW)

The vision is that:

- All South Warwickshire referrals will experience an enhanced triage
- Those requiring a Specialist Mental Health assessment will receive this within 4-weeks
- Building on our current intervention portfolio there will continue to be a range of groups able to support those requiring this level of intervention

What are the consequences of having both Trailblazer projects? There are consequences at different levels:

- For South Warwickshire children and young people, it means the early support of their emotional wellbeing will prevent the deterioration of their wellbeing.
- Where there is an escalation of need that requires a referral to Specialist Mental Health it will mean a shorter time to assessment and in some cases the clinical intervention then need.
- For a Warwickshire child or young person not in South Warwickshire it will mean that there will be more group-based interventions in South Warwickshire they can access, which will shorten the time they need to wait to access this support

Areas to be developed further:

- Wave 3 of providing MHST is being applied for in the North of the county, with the bid closing date of mid-March

Unfortunately, North Warwickshire were unsuccessful in their bid for funding – work will be focusing on lessons learnt from the current offer and how the whole county can benefit.

Strengthening support for Vulnerable Children	<p>Support for Children Looked After</p> <p>Direct interventions delivered to children and young people have been in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling and therapeutic conversations; • Play therapy; • Solution-focussed and cognitive behavioural interventions; • Attachment based support for foster carers and adopters; • Therapeutic social work; • Primary mental health interventions. <p>Children in Crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been significant developments in this area over the last year. In response to additional funding from the three CCG's, CWPT have successfully rolled out an enhanced child in crisis support offer. • This includes expansion of the Acute Liaison Team based in hospital ensuring access 7 days a week and the development of the Home Treatment Team. • The aim of these services is to ensure children have timely access to services and to try and prevent admission to inpatient tier 4 beds. <p>Areas to be developed further</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a focus in 2020 in terms of developing the vulnerable children's offer which includes children looked after. RISE are looking to increase clinical staffing in this area • CWPT/ RISE and the Children and Families Team at Warwickshire County Council are working within the LTP priority to strengthen support for vulnerable children and young people. • Part of this work has been to revisit scoping exercises which took place in 2018/19 where discussions took place regarding what was meant by the term 'vulnerable' and what made individuals more vulnerable. • In addition to this, models of delivery need to be identified and approved.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of the Crisis offer to 24/7 in response to PHE and COVID there is now access to a 24/7 crisis support telephone number, the aim is for this continue post COVID restrictions. The principles of the Support to vulnerable children has been agreed with an action plan now being drawn together.
Engagement Strategy Coventry and Warwickshire	<p>To ensure the voices of children, young people and their families are embedded in service development</p> <p>Areas to be developed further.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coventry and Warwickshire are developing an engagement strategy to further enhance ongoing collaboration with children, young people and their families to re/design and provide the best possible services within their locality Robust and effective service user and stakeholder engagement is a priority within the LTP, and partners are working to ensure that service users and stakeholders are involved in the development of services going forward. We will be engaging with children and young people around mental health priorities, commissioned services and Co-production of any required service re-design

Family Wellbeing Portfolio Services Update – February 2020

Commissioned Services	<p>The School Health & Wellbeing Service offers a range of support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual health needs assessments for reception, year 6 and year 9 students. The results of these questionnaires are used to help young people and provide tailored information ChatHealth text messaging service for young people and parents to be able to access confidential support Development of Youth Health Champions within schools to work with the service to shape the offer A specialist Emotional Health & Wellbeing nurse to work in partnership with schools and mental health services. Training and one-to-one support is being provided to staff within schools to empower more professionals and offer support and guidance around emotional health
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the year 6 and year 9 annual health & wellbeing questionnaires, young people are asked about whether they have any caring responsibilities in order to offer additional support if required and the service also works in partnership with the Young Carers service to offer additional support. A Looked After Children's Nurse has been created and will begin during 2020, working in partnership with the Looked After Children team A new website with interactive service pages was launched in April 2019 (www.compass-uk.org). The site provides age appropriate information, downloadable digital products and out of hours support A marketing and digital communications officer has been employed to ensure effective communications and engagement with children, young people, families, schools, commissioners and partners Following feedback on the health needs assessment by students in year 6 at a primary school, the service worked with the young people to develop a video to prepare future students completing the questionnaire. They developed the storyboards and the content, as well as taking part in the video The service publishes an annual report, the most recently published report (2017/18) is available here: https://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/api/documents/WCCC-630-1936 However the report for 2018/19 will be published very shortly. <p>Children & Family Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service has been increased to cover children and young people between 0 and 19. The providers are reviewing the offer to ensure there are services for the extended age offer.
Other programmes of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A self-harm working group, as part of the wider suicide prevention strategy, is working on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention: Provide appropriate messaging in schools around mental health and wellbeing. For primary schools this should focus on mental health and managing emotions. For secondary schools this should focus on transition points (i.e. Year 6, Year 11, Year 13) to provide positive coping strategies that counters some of what might be heard by children and young people. Link with Warwick and Coventry universities to request support / information to give to schools / young people before they attend university Early intervention: Development of leaflet about self-harm and support that is available for young people. Develop and promote resources / information for parents, families, carers and friends about where to get information, advice and support. Develop and promote resources / information for front line workers about where to get information, advice and support. This should include red flags to look out for. Targeted specialist support: Conduct audits against NICE quality standards. Review NICE guidelines and identify whether an audit should be carried out against the guidelines. Identify areas of workforce where targeted development can take place and identify types of development required. Ensure developments include compassionate responses to people who have self-harmed. Co-produce a self-harm passport for young people to

	<p>use when disclosing self-harm to professionals. Identify appropriate method of distribution to young people (e.g. via schools / GPs). Investigate potential for digital record</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elected members task and finish group<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ A research project is being undertaken in schools to establish the culture of self-harm, skills and competencies, areas of need, in order to inform recommendations to be made by the elected members.• The Public Health budget contributes towards the annual contract with Warwickshire Young Carers• Annual Youth conference takes place in June and 2020 will be on the theme of Identity. The conference is an opportunity for services to work with young people, listen to their views and feed this back into service design.
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Rise Service Update due to COVID-19

May 2020

Service Area	Updates
Key messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWPT has not redeployed any staff away from CYP MH/Rise Service into any generic services • The front door/entry point into the service remains as it has always been, referrals and contact are unchanged and can continue to be made through the Navigation Hub • Updated information on the current situation with the service response to Covid-19 can be found on the Rise website www.cwrise.com • Children and Young Person - 24hr 7 days a week Crisis Help Line • Rise are currently delivering a service in a new way which is being responsive to changing situation on a daily basis • Rise continue to look at understanding the impact as we move forward each week and how this will change the requirements for CYP in their needs, longer term needs and the unknown factor. • All CYP on caseload have been contacted and offered a means of contact or support. • Feedback from families thus far has been very positive and welcome that they have not just been left and the service has maintained a level of contact and communication with them and are not feeling abandoned. • Rise will be responding with school support once back in due to some teachers/support staff and CYP having been out of school since March, looking at giving skills and support to school's staff and CYP/families in managing the new situation. • Rise recognise the impact is wider than just the schools and CYP/families, this will influence everyone's MH & WB and how this is managed through wider support not just key mental health services • Looking at identifying key stress points for CYP and families who are not seeing extended family/estranged family members and losing on family or peer support.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All services (not just MH) will need to be looking at ways to support in the new environment moving past the here and now with adjustments.
Acute Liaison Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALT function fully operational. Core Team based at Whitestone (Nuneaton) and will undertake urgent assessments there, in Orchard House (Leamington) and in Coventry via home visits or at Coventry Family Hubs
Tier 3.5/Crisis/Home Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working to extend hours to 8am to 8pm 7 days a week. • Adult Crisis Team take calls from 8pm - 8am for initial triage with support of Children's crisis team on-call arrangements, with support from CYP MH Leadership and CAMHS on call consultant. • Cover started from 10.04.2020.
Navigation Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining staffing numbers • Referrals and triage work remain unchanged and in place as usual being the first point of reference for all referrals and professional advice, information and consultation. • Telephone contact remains as normal with all professions though the Nav Hub providing advice and support. • Parent consultations via the PMHW within the community locations are not taking place currently due to lack of digital resources • CWPT are exploring all platforms for accessing support and contact with CYP and their families through digital and virtual support. - Laptop loan is being sourced through WCC support to support virtual support.
Eating Disorder Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency cases taking priority - Staff continue to offer urgent assessment activity and utilise crisis and locality hubs to support urgent assessment. • All other CYP will be prioritised on individual case and how each individual can be maintained. If not able to be physically maintained. - at triage stage a clinician will look at all areas not just weight, presenting behaviours will also be taken into account in terms of urgency of support. -Staff continue to provide support via facetime video and continue interventions where appropriate.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does have staffing challenges in this service but prioritising workflow. • Being creative with resources due to ED specialist service and will have the ability to tap into adult ED service for consultation. • ED teams are trailing using What's App but still are in need of digital devices to fully roll the IT infrastructure is on place and devices available
Core CAMHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All active caseload has been contacted since outbreak either by phone or where that has failed letters have been sent. • Increased on-line presence for information and advice, supplementing Dimensions. • Planned roll-out of ThinkNinja self-manage app to agreed cohort of CYP. • All teams have established daily urgent MDT for urgent cases and decisions about face to face contact and referral to home treatment. • All services operated support of the bank holidays to reduce the potential for escalating issues. Each area continues to run a duty desk. • Priority will be given to Crisis/emergency cases initially. • Lower needs cases are being reviewed – and will either continue with contact, be provided with a review date, or paused/put on hold, provided with resources. – this is to protect capacity to respond to urgent/crisis cases. Capacity throughout the service needs to be maintained to pick up these cases therefore the lower cases are being reviewed and evaluated based on need. • No groups being provided but telephone contact is being maintained. – this may need to change over time due to changing in capacity and urgent/crisis needs. • Looking at other platforms that can support contact with CYP - Waiting on the ability to provide virtual/video support but still need to navigate the logistics on this. • Telephone support is being offered in place of group work – though some of this may be extended or paused based on need to respond to urgent cases. • Can book into low level support that is still within NICE guidelines. • All professionals can maintain contact and consultation through the Nav hub as previously when working with a CYP/family • Making sure that within the contact that the teams are having with CYP/families the service they are receiving now is what they need to have within what is available through the current working ability.
Primary Mental health Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases reviewed, booked face to face consultations converted to telephone. • Further consultations being booked via the Nav Hub

Youth Justice Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff maintaining roles in YJS to support critical activity. • All activity converted to telephone or online. • No staff are being redeployed out of this service and will continue to offer mental health care support.
Children Looked After Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face to face interventions for urgent issues only. Activity has been converted to telephone and continue to provide support to routine cases. • Rise practitioners have made contact with every YP/family/SW/FC on the caseload and has been case reviewed • Maintaining virtual contact with S/W- FC and offering advice, information and support • Looking at the nurturing and attachments groups and what can be offered as an alternative • CLA 6 monthly review meetings chaired by the Independent Reviewing Officer are still taking place through virtual systems. • Prioritisation list identified, working alongside Social worker, provide advice and support where needed
Mental Health Schools Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff not being redeployed out of CYP MH services • Warwickshire MHST workers are maintaining contact with CYP they are currently working with. • MHST staff have also been in contact with other schools not part of the pilot to offer support. • Will still be maintaining links with schools. • Maintaining input to key cases that were open prior to lockdown and remain in contact with placement schools and others. • Qualified EMHP are using some capacity to support other Crisis activities and Core Rise activities that would have been delivered by groups. • Unqualified EMHP are supporting the development of online resources and support to schools.
Education/Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School nurses responding to the chat health messages and providing health checks through what's app. • Educational Psychologists are looking at a number of areas of work with CYP/Families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Bereavement support and separation anxiety. II. Emotional difficulties with CYP having been away from their extended families/estranged families for some time and how this can be supported III. Emotional needs of CYP transition from primary to secondary schools with not having an end point/closure on the previous school and now having to attend a new school with little preparation and support. • How Rise can support schools in training and consultations once back due to their need to catch up and potentially not have viability to attend face to face as they had previously - alternative formats and looking at different strategies of what can be delivered.

CWMind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service is working to offer alternative provision. • Contacting Parents/Carers on waiting list to check in and see what support they need. • Tailoring digital support to needs • Designing and developing online resources. • Re-adapting the emotional well-being resource/work booklet for young children. • Development of Webinar resources. • 1:1 telephone support to CYP • Contact being made to all parents/carers on the waiting list and actively working with to offer digital support, advice, and guidance. RAG rating is in place. - Phone Assessments using BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) guidance are still offered and being completed. • 1:1 work online with CYP, Parents/Carers: Video Link working/telephone consultations/primary mental health work/ counselling adaptation/carer support etc, in line with BACP ethical guidance/framework. • Parent/Carer training sessions: Webinar or streaming options to deliver training remotely. Possibly use Eventbrite for bookings. Possibly offer additional sessions or greater numbers of participants. Train staff to use technology & support with management of online sessions. Receiving feedback from other CYP services before development • Adopted parent/carer training development: Collaboratively develop Strengthening Relationships single seminar/webinar. <p>Development of digital offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and develop online resources. • Re-adapting the emotional well-being resource/work booklet for young children. • Develop a CYP survival Kit to email out- Incorporate relevant links, clips, training etc • Development of resource pack/booklet re anxiety management and containment to provide to adopted parents/carers following contact if required. • Development of Webinar resources specific to needs as they present. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to comply with social distancing guidelines, all face to face activity to undertake diagnostic assessments and deliver post diagnostic interventions has stopped.

Neurodevelopment Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where possible, diagnostic assessments for those already referred to the service may be completed via E-consultation. However, should this not be feasible there may be a decision to put the assessment/intervention on hold until a time where the child/young person/family can be seen face to face.• Referrals for diagnostic assessments and post diagnostic intervention can continue to be sent into the Navigation hub: Address: Navigation Hub, Ground Floor, Paybody Building, Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry CV1 4FS• Virtual support online will continue accessed via the dimensions tool, the RISE website and on the telephone.• Specialist expertise in the neurodevelopmental service is also being redirecting during this time to support essential and crisis services, with a particular focus on ensuring the needs of people with neurodevelopmental conditions are met. This includes support into the 24/7 mental health crisis helpline for young people and into the intensive support service, which continues to operate as a priority service.• CWPT are working closely with the MIND in relation to the community outreach offer for young people with autism and their families to ensure the offers are joined up.
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Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

29 September 2020

Council Plan 2020 – 2025 Quarterly Progress Report **Period under review: April 2020 to June 2020**

Recommendation

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Considers and comments on the progress of the delivery of the Council Plan 2020 - 2025 for the period as contained in the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council Plan Quarter 1 Performance Report for the period April 1st, 2020 to June 30th, 2020 was considered and approved by Cabinet on 10th September 2020. The report provides an overview of progress of the key elements of the Council Plan, specifically in relation to performance against Key Business Measures (KBM), strategic risks and workforce management. A separate Financial Monitoring report for the period covering both the revenue and capital budgets, reserves and delivery of the savings plan was presented and considered at the same September Cabinet meeting.
- 1.2. This report draws on information extracted from both Cabinet reports to provide this Committee with information relevant to its remit.

2. Council Plan 2020 - 2025: Strategic Context and Performance Commentary

- 2.1 The Council Plan 2020 – 2025 aims to achieve two high level Outcomes:

- Warwickshire's communities and individuals are supported to be safe, healthy and independent; and,
- Warwickshire's economy is vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training, skills and infrastructure.

Progress to achieve these outcomes is assessed against 64 KBMs.

Outcome	No. of KBMs
Warwickshire's communities and individuals are supported to be safe, healthy and independent	23
Warwickshire's economy is vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training, skills and infrastructure	12

In addition, to demonstrate OOP delivery by ensuring that **WCC makes the best use of its resources**, a total of 29 KBMs are monitored.

As the Organisation continues to transform the [Commissioning Intentions Performance Framework](#) was developed and implemented in October 2019 providing a sharpened focus on performance linked to the Organisation's priorities. As part of this transformation several changes to measures were proposed for Cabinet to agree to ensure that the Framework remains fit for purpose and supports delivery of the priorities. The subsequent revised Commissioning Intentions Performance Framework which will be reported on from Quarter 2 can be accessed using this [link](#).

Detailed performance for Quarter 1 for all current KBMs has been visualised utilising the functionality of the Microsoft Power BI system.

- 2.2 At Quarter 1 there has been an improvement in overall performance compared to the 2019/20 year-end position. Several measures, however, have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and as a consequence there is little or no sign of improvement in these areas. These are fully detailed in 2.5.
- 2.3 Of the 64 KBMs, 11 are in the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Of the 64 KBM's, 11 are in the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee and 6 are available for reporting at Quarter 1. Of the 6 reportable KBM's 33% (2) KBM's are reported as being On Track whilst 66% (4) KBM's are reported as not being Not on Track

Chart 1 below summarises KBM status by quarter since the introduction of the Commissioning Intentions Framework.

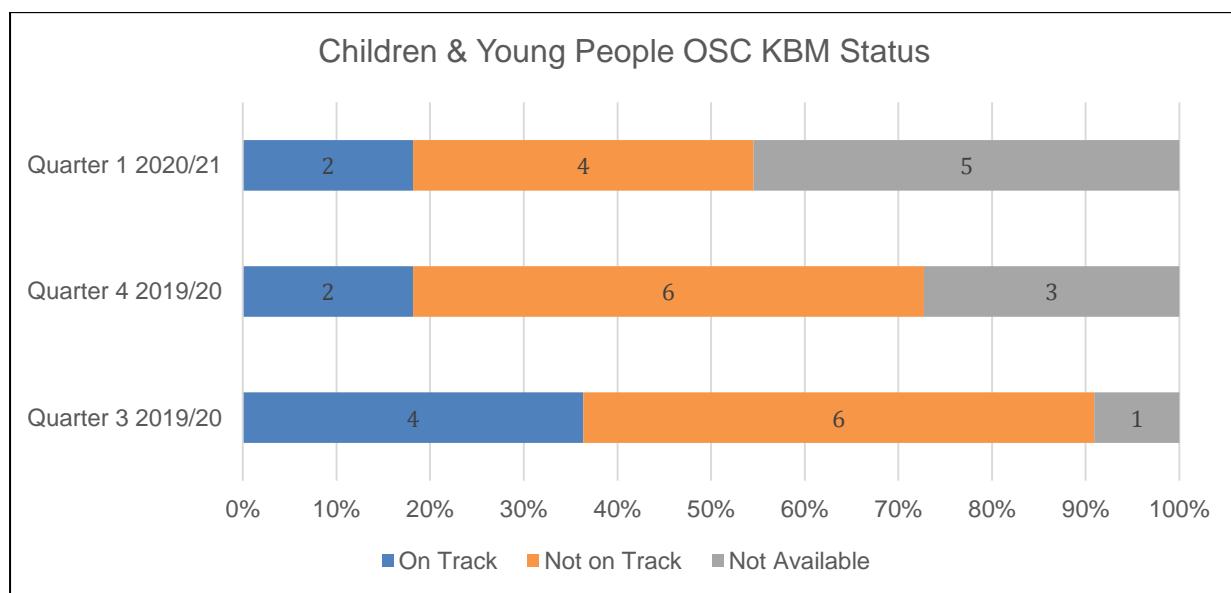


Chart 1

5 KBM's are unavailable for reporting at this quarter.

3 are not available as they are annual measures and reported in arrears:

- % of Year 6 children (aged 10-11 years) in Warwickshire who are classified as obese;
- % of Warwickshire pupils achieving the expected standard for reading, writing and maths at key stages 1 and 2, and level 4 English and maths at key stage 4; and,
- % of disadvantaged pupils in Warwickshire achieving the expected standard for reading, writing and maths at key stages 1 and 2, and level 4 English and maths at key stage 4.

A further 2 KBM's are not currently being reported due to restrictions on service delivery following the Covid-19 situation:

- % of children and young people seen within 18 weeks (Referral to Treatment Time) amalgamated across the three CCGs; and,
- % of children receiving a 6-8 week health check.

2.4 Currently, 2 KBM's are reported as being On Track:

- No. of children open to an Early Help assessment. This KBM remains on track because the redesigned demand led process is much simpler, meaning it is easier for Practitioners to complete for Children, Young People & Families.
- No. of children looked after with a disability (open to Children with Disabilities Team). This KBM is back on track after a decline in performance during Quarter 4. It is now improving because almost all of the children and young people who are in care and open to the Children with Disability team, are in long term care. The vast majority of these care arrangements are joint with Education and almost three quarters also have a health element.

2.5 There are 4 KBMs that are Not on Track at Quarter 1 are included in Table 1 below and details the current performance narrative, improvement activity and explanation of projected trajectory:

Warwickshire's communities and individuals are supported to be safe, healthy and independent	
No. of Children in Care (CiC) excluding unaccompanied asylum-seeking children	
Current performance narrative:	In light of Covid-19 and lockdown restrictions, there has been a delay in court proceedings and assessments being completed, which has led to a delay in discharging children from care, moving children to adoption or rehabilitating children home. The service has accommodated large sibling groups and have seen an increase in teenage placements during this quarter.
Improvement activity:	There is significant oversight and assurance that the right children are in care, these are working effectively. There has been no increase in children entering care. The throughput or flow of children leaving has increased the number of children in care due to the pandemic. A number of work areas within the Children and Families change programme

will help to reduce the number of children in care, for example expanding and increasing Family Group Conferences, improving support to Special Guardians and increasing support to families. These work areas will start to become operational during 2020/21.

Explanation of the projected trajectory: Not on track – remaining static

Based on current performance, Improvement activity and the current national Covid-19 climate, performance is expected to remain static. Although court proceedings are taking place, delays are likely to continue, which will impact the number of children discharged from care. The service expect performance will improve by March 2021.

% of Children in Care (CiC) aged under 16 who have been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years, who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years or are placed for adoption

Current performance narrative:

Performance has improved marginally since the start of the year.

Of the percentage of children who have not been living in the same placement for at least 2 years, 10 children with an average foster placement length of 5 years saw placement breakdowns in the last 15 months. If these children had continued in their long-term placement then performance would stand at 66.1% rather than 61.5%. The majority of these children were aged between 12-15 years of age. Most of the remaining children in this cohort have not been in a placement for over 2 years.

The service has continued to see a significant demand for placements, with large sibling groups, teenagers and young people with complex needs.

During Covid-19 many residential homes were not accepting placements due to staffing issues and foster carers have been reluctant to have children move into their households. This has made it difficult to identify placements, and the service have had to provide emergency placements which has resulted in children moving between placements. During the quarter some providers have given notice on placements due to safety risks when some children have not adhered to social-distancing measures.

Positively, the service has seen an increase in the use of internal placements.

Improvement activity:

- The service has seen an increase in foster career applications during this quarter, as such have re-organised the team to ensure assessments are completed in a timely manner (15 applications during Quarter 1 2020/21 compared to 7 during Quarter 1 2019/20);
- Commissioned a marketing agency to recruit foster carers, the contract will start August 2020;
- Commissioned a crisis bed to support young people before they move onto a longer-term placement or home;
- The service is currently working on a proposal to establish a four-bedroom residential home.

Explanation of the projected trajectory: Not on track – remaining static

Based on current performance, Improvement activity and the current national Covid-19 climate, performance is expected to remain static. With an increased number of foster care applications, the introduction of the new crisis and residential placements becoming available the service are expecting performance will improve by January 2021.

% of care leavers (Relevant and Former Relevant 16-21) who are not in education, employment and training (NEET)

Current performance narrative:

The service recognises that Warwickshire levels are slightly higher than the national average of 39% for 2018/19 and follows national trends of higher unemployment and a subsequent increase in young people becoming NEET.

Due to Covid-19 and lock down restrictions the service has not been able to run the weekly NEET drop-in groups. In February 2020 three drop-in NEET groups a week took place across the county. Since the start of the year (April 2020) the percentage of care leavers who are NEET has increased, this is likely due to the impact of Covid-19 and a reduction of employment opportunities for young people.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) are part of this cohort, and these Young People are not able to legally work until they receive leave to remain status in the country. However, the younger co-hort of this group are keen to access education.

Improvement activity:

- Online NEET groups have started and numbers attending have started to increase;
- Covid-19 risk assessments are being completed to help re-start small NEET drops in from September onwards;
- Continue to work with colleges and adult education to support UASC from September onwards;
- Re-commissioned Prospects to work with young people from the age 16-year-old, this work is currently being completed by phone, email or video chat;
- The service will also be appointing an additional Careers Officer;
- The Care Leaver Local Offer has been extended to pay university bursary of up to £1,000 for young people up to the age of 25 years old; and
- An agreement to increase care experienced partnerships across the council.

Explanation of the projected trajectory: Not on track – remaining static

Based on current performance, Improvement activity and the current national Covid-19 climate, performance is expected to remain static with a possible increase.

Warwickshire's economy is vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training and skills and infrastructure

% of Warwickshire pupils attending schools (including nursery schools) judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted

Current performance narrative:

Ofsted inspections ceased when schools closed due to Covid-19 at the end of March 2020. Ofsted have confirmed they will be carrying out a phased return to inspection, starting with an interim period of visits during the autumn term. They intend to resume full inspections in January 2021, and are keeping the exact timing under review. Visits, not inspections, will take place to a selection of schools in the autumn term to discuss with leaders their response to Covid-19 and how they plan to overcome the challenges they have faced and will continue to face over coming months. The visits will be piloted in September with volunteer schools and will be rolled out at the end of September. There will be no judgements and no report, but a brief letter will be published.

Improvement activity:

Vulnerable maintained schools will continue to be supported as part of Warwickshire's School Improvement offer. In addition, the School Improvement Team have revised the school improvement offer for the next 12 months to one that has a new focus on schools not coping with the current pandemic situation.

Explanation of the projection trajectory: Not on target - remaining static

At this point in time the position is unclear as to when Ofsted inspections will restart therefore performance cannot improve until clarification is provided.

Table 1

These measures have been recorded as not being on track since first reported through this Commissioning Intentions Framework at Quarter 3 2019/20 and no improving trend has been experienced so far and it is projected that this will remain the case for the next reporting period. The Covid-19 pandemic has adversely impacted all of the measures and the improvement activity has not seen the expected result due to extra pressures and demand of the pandemic on services. Improvement activity needs time to embed and positive results to be realised.

- 2.5 Chart 2 below illustrates the considered forecast performance projection over the forthcoming reporting period as well as 2 previous periods.

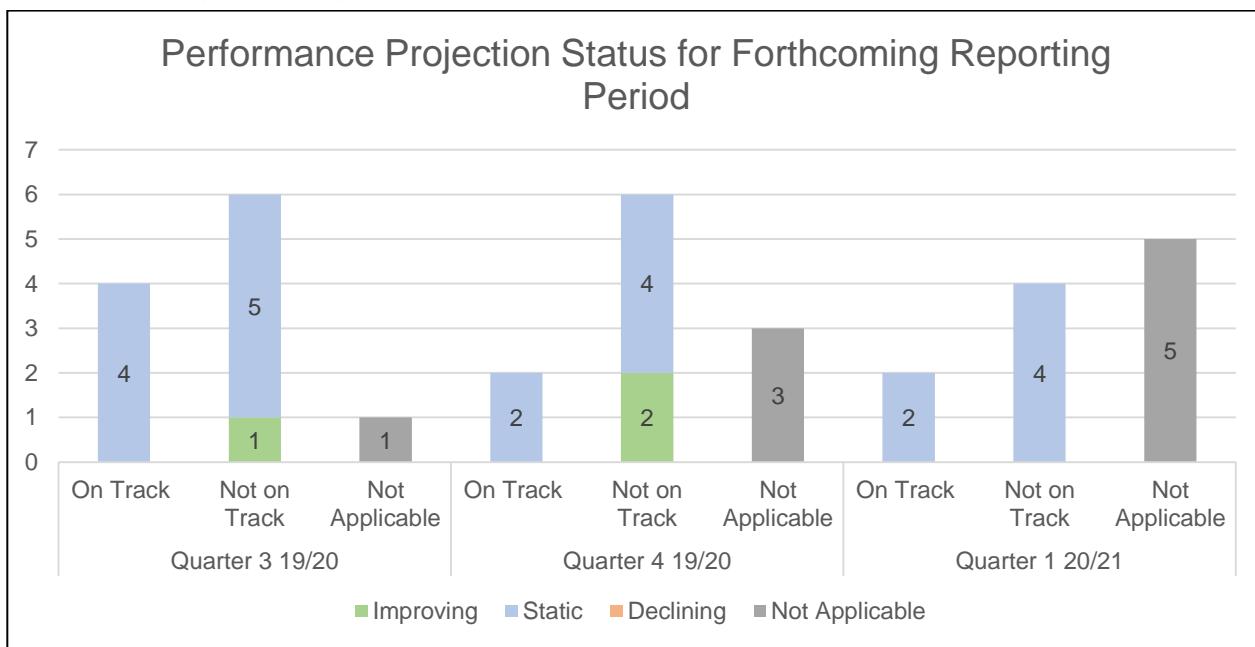


Chart 2

Of the 11 KBM's, 6 KBM's have a forecast performance projection for the forthcoming reporting period, the other 5 are annual measures, or have no update at this time and therefore it is not appropriate to give a performance projection. 2 of the measures have a forecast performance projection of being On Track and remaining static. 4 KBMs have a forecast of being Not on Track and are expected to remain Not on Track during the next Quarter and these have been fully detailed in 2.5.

2.6 Comprehensive performance reporting is now enabled through the following link to the Communities [CYP Quarter 1 2020/21 Performance Report](#).

The [CYP OSC Quarter 1 2020/21 Warwickshire's Communities Dashboard](#) contains KBMs which fall under the OOP outcome Warwickshire's communities and individuals are supported to be safe, healthy and independent.

The [CYP Quarter 1 2020/21 Warwickshire's Economy Dashboard](#) contains KBMs which fall under the OOP outcome Warwickshire's economy is vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training and skills and infrastructure.

3. Financial Commentary – relevant finance information taken from Cabinet report

3.1 Revenue Budget

3.1.1 The Council has set the following performance threshold in relation to revenue spend: a tolerance has been set of zero overspend and no more than a 2% underspend. The following table shows the forecast position for the Services concerned.

	2020/21 Budget £'000	2020/21 Outturn '000	Revenue Variance £'000 %	Retained Reserves £'000	Financial Standing £'000
Children and Families	63,834	66,471	2,637 4.13%		2,637

The major Covid pressures include the follows:

- £1m additional placement costs;
- £0.388m for additional staffing costs;
- £0.189m for Youth Justice Remand placement;
- £0.146m for loss of income related to the 4 Youth Centres;
- £0.389m for increased Fostercare/emergency/care leaver and UASC payments.

After removing the Covid-19 related pressures, the net variance for Children & Families is a £0.389m overspend. This headline overspend is masked by a number of ear-marked funding streams (see reserves table) which, when taken account of, change the variance to an underlying overspend to £1.275m. The major contributors to this underlying position are:

- £2.076m Children in Care Placements overspend mostly related to increased numbers and complexity (affecting average unit cost);
- £0.180m unfunded Agency T3 post;

- Forecasted grant in excess of budget (due to notified in year increases & grant maximisation) of £0.882m.

Education Services	34,197	37,208	3,011 8.80%		3,011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covid-19 Pressures consist of £0.690m Early Years Hubs, £0.300 Home to School Transport refunds and £1.538m traded income pressures; The traded income pressures include over £1.1m of pressures relating to Warwickshire Attendance Service, County Music Service and Marle Hall; Of the non-Covid-19 net overspend of £0.483m, £0.258m of this overspend is relating to the cost of placements for Children with Disabilities in residential care. The remaining £0.225m net overspend relates to minor variances on operational expenditure; Not included in the current forecast is the potential cost of implementing social distancing rules within the Home to School Transport service. Based on a crude methodology (and an assumption of a 1 metre social distancing rules) this could be in the region of £2.750m. 					

3.2. Delivery of the Savings Plan

3.2.1. The savings targets and forecast outturn for the Services concerned are shown in the table below.

	2020/21 Target £'000	2020/21 Actual to Date £'000	2020/21 Outturn £'000
Children and Families	194	194	194
Education Services	279	279	279

3.3 Capital Programme

3.3.1. The table below shows the approved capital budget for the Services and any slippage into future years.

	Approved budget for all current and future years (£'000)	Slippage from 2020/21 into Future Years £'000	Slippage from 2020/21 into Future Years (%)	Current quarter - new approved funding / schemes (£'000)	Newly resourced spend included in slippage figures (£'000)	All Current and Future Years Forecast (£'000)
Children and Families	230	257	3.04%	27		257
Education Services	12,484	15,898	0.17%	3,393		15,877
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delays to the new School in Rugby (£2.830m) and Campion School expansion (£1.767m) have been offset by two other projects completing earlier than expected. The schemes completing ahead of schedule are High Meadow £1.787m and Heathcote Primary School £2.605m. The remainder is small changes in time frames on a number of other projects, please see the annex. 						

4. Supporting Papers

4.1 A copy of the full report and supporting documents that went to Cabinet on the 10th September is available via the committee system.

5. Environmental Implications

None specific to this report.

6. Background Papers

None

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Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

29 September 2020

One Organisational Plan Progress Report Period under review: April 2019 to March 2020

Recommendation

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Considers and comments on the progress of the delivery of the One Organisational Plan 2020 for the period as contained in the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The One Organisational Plan (OOP) Year-end Performance Report for the period April 1st 2019 to March 31st 2020 was considered and approved by Cabinet on 9th July 2020. The report provides an overview of progress of the key elements of the OOP, specifically in relation to performance against Key Business Measures (KBMs), strategic risks and workforce management. A separate Financial Monitoring report for the period covering both the revenue and capital budgets, reserves and delivery of the savings plan was presented and considered at the Cabinet meeting held in June 2020.
- 1.2. This report draws on information extracted from both Cabinet reports to provide this Committee with information relevant to its remit.

2. One Organisational Plan 2020: Strategic Context and Performance Commentary

- 2.1 The OOP 2020 Plan aims to achieve two high level Outcomes:

- Warwickshire's communities and individuals are supported to be safe, healthy and independent; and,
- Warwickshire's economy is vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training, skills and infrastructure.

Progress to achieve these outcomes is assessed against 64 KBMs.

Outcome	No. of KBMs
Warwickshire's communities and individuals are supported to be safe, healthy and independent	23
Warwickshire's economy is vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training, skills and infrastructure	12

In addition, to demonstrate OOP delivery by ensuring that **WCC makes the best use of its resources**, a total of 29 KBMs are monitored.

As the Organisation continues to transform, this is the first full year performance report that will be reported against the new [Commissioning Intentions Performance Framework](#). The new measures included in the Framework provide a sharpened focus on performance linked to the Organisation's priorities. Detailed performance has been visualised utilising the functionality of the newly implemented Microsoft Power BI system.

Due to the WCC response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the collection of the year end performance was delayed. There are also some KBM's where data has not been provided by Service areas:

- % of Year 6 children (aged 10-11 years) in Warwickshire who are classified as obese; and,
- % of children and young people seen within 18 weeks (Referral to Treatment Time) amalgamated across the three CCGs.

Both of these KBMs are currently postponed as work on them is not continuing at the moment.

- 2.2 Of the 64 KBMs, 11 are in the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee. 9% (1) KBM has met their target at year end, 45.5% (5) KBM's are not on track. The remaining 45.5% (5) KBMs are Not Applicable currently because accurate data is not available.

Chart 1 below summarises KBM performance by outcome.

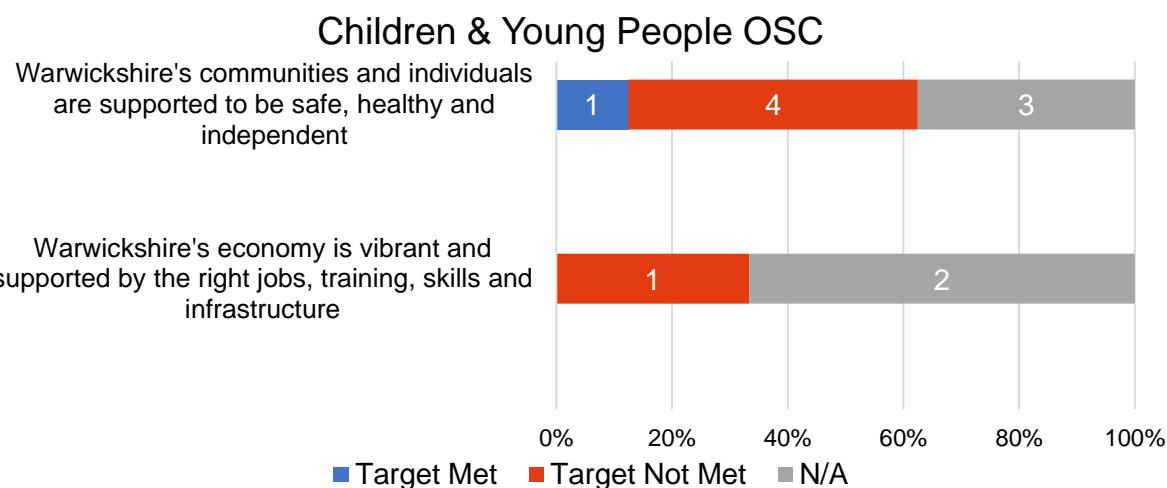


Chart 1

- 2.3 The following KBM met target at year-end:-

- No. of children open to an Early Help assessment as the number of cases have increased as improvement recommendations from the Multi- agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) are coming to fruition. Please note that in March the target was not met but has been exceeded throughout the year.

- 2.4 The full set of KBM's form the basis of the 2020/21 performance framework and therefore a forecast performance projection for the next reporting period is included in this report. As

targets have yet to be agreed the projection is based on measure owners current understanding of forecast performance levels. Chart 2, below, illustrates the considered future performance projection over the forthcoming reporting period.

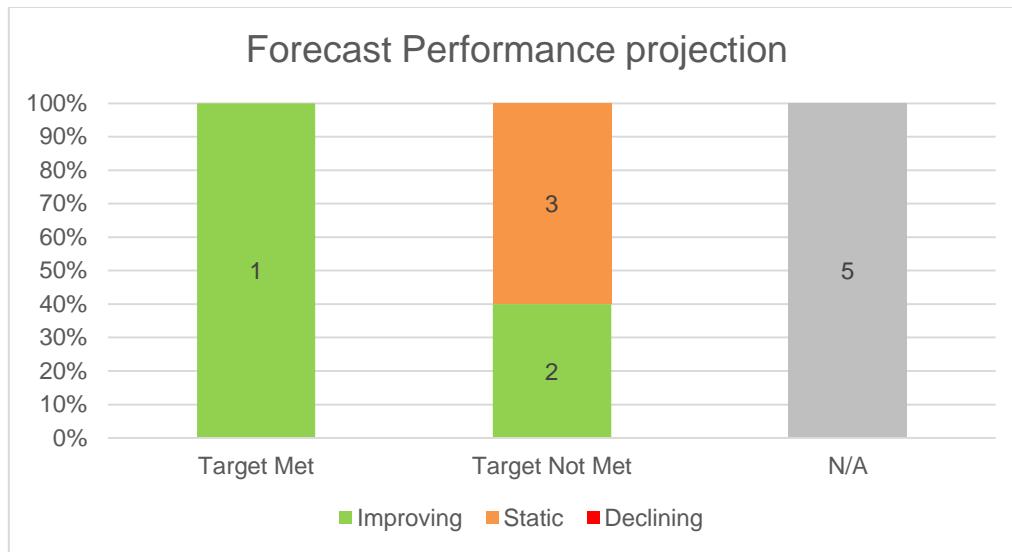


Chart 2

Of the 11 performance measures within the remit of this Committee, the following KBMs are currently not on target but the projection is forecast to improve

- % of care leavers (Relevant and Former Relevant 16-21) who are not in education, employment and training (NEET);
- % of children looked after (CLA) aged under 16 who have been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years, who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption.

3 KBM's are currently not on track and are expected to remain so over the next reporting period. The table below highlights these KBM's, including remedial action being taken, where performance is projected to remain underperforming and static over the next reporting period;

Measure	Remedial action
% of Warwickshire pupils attending schools (including nursery schools) judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted	Maintained category C and D schools continue to receive support from Learning Improvement Officers and school consortia are being funded for school improvement projects many of which focus on the current Ofsted framework. However, as of March 2020, Ofsted have ceased all inspections. Current proposals are for them only to restart in January 2021.
No. of children looked after (CLA) excluding unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC);	A number of processes are in place to manage demand, reduce the time children are in care and to increase the number of children and young people leaving care, these include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Decision Making Panel; • improved Special Guardianship Order (SGO) offer; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased discharge of Care Orders. <p>A number of work areas within the Children and Families change programme will help to reduce the number of children in care. These work areas will start to become operational during 2020/21.</p>
No. of children looked after with a disability (open to Children with Disabilities Team)	<p>The vast majority of children with a disability are supported through a range of short breaks.</p> <p>Continuing oversight to ensure the right children are in care and the service believe they are.</p> <p>The service will embed early help offer and child in need support to prevent situations escalating and children needing to become looked after. There will be a renewed focus on permanency arrangements where applicable and appropriate for children with disabilities.</p>

A further 5 KBMs do not have a projection for the next reporting period. This is because 2 measures are awaiting data from external services which will be delayed due to Covid-19. 1 measure currently has not been updated. Two further measures do not have target data and may be subject to revision. The breakdown of these measures is as follows:

Data delayed from external providers:

- % of Year 6 children (aged 10-11 years) in Warwickshire who are classified as obese; and,
- % of children and young people seen within 18 weeks (Referral to Treatment Time) amalgamated across the three CCGs.

Awaiting update from external provider:

- % of children receiving a 6-8 week health check.

No target/historical data:

- % of Warwickshire pupils achieving the expected standard for reading, writing and maths at key stages 1 and 2, and level 4 English and maths at key stage 4; and,
- % of disadvantaged pupils in Warwickshire achieving the expected standard for reading, writing and maths at key stages 1 and 2, and level 4 English and maths at key stage 4.

2.5 Comprehensive performance reporting is now enabled through the following link to Power BI OSC Year End Performance Report.

The Children & Young People's Year End Exception report dashboard:- [Children & Young People OSC Year End Exception Report](#) contains details of those measures that are of significant note where good performance or areas of concern need to be highlighted.

There is a further dashboard split by the 2 high level Outcomes:- Year End Full Dashboard [Children & Young People OSC Year End Full Dashboard](#) which provides a summary of performance for all KBM's within the remit of this Committee.

3. Financial Implications – relevant finance information taken from Cabinet report

3.1 Revenue Budget

3.1.1 The Council has set the following performance threshold in relation to revenue spend: a tolerance has been set of zero overspend and no more than a 2% underspend. The following table shows the forecast position for the Services concerned:

	2019/20 Budget £'000	2019/20 Outturn '000	Revenue Variance £'000 %	Retained Reserves £'000	Financial Standing £'000
Children and Families	54,536	55,701	1,165 2.14	1,865	3,030

The forecast overspend of £1.164m in the Children and Families Service was dampened by the impact of one-off funding in the financial year, as well as some underspends against earmarked funds which have to be set aside, to complete projects in future years. Without these, the Service had an underlying overspend of £4.698m. The main areas of overspending were Children in Care Placements due to demand and unit cost increases; allowances paid for non-LAC children; and Leaving Care Accommodation packages and allowances for young people aged 16 years and above, which continue to be an area of growth both in activity and unit cost. There were a number of offsetting underspends, in Priority Families, Adoption Central England, unspent government earmarked grant income and salary costs.

Education Services	110,866	120,013	9,147 8.25%	(4,076)	5,071
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There was a £7.343m overspend on the DSG High Needs Block due to place funding for a growing High Needs placement pressures. In 2019/20, this overspend on the High Needs DSG Block was partially offset by a £2.103m contribution agreed as part of the 2019/20 Budget. We are no longer allowed to write off DSG overspends using Council resources, or offset an overspend on one DSG sub-block with underspends on from the other blocks without the approval of the Secretary of State. As a result, the £2.282m underspend on the other DSG blocks cannot be used to offset this overspend and the resulting £5.240m deficit on the High Needs block will be carried forward to be funded from savings on the High Needs DSG in future years.

3.2. Delivery of the 2017-20 Savings Plan

3.2.1. The savings targets and forecast outturn for the Business Units concerned are shown in the table below.

	2019/20 Target £'000	2019/20 Actual to Date £'000	2019/20 Outturn £'000
Children and Families	4,930	2,020	2,020
Shortfall £2.910 million. The savings linked to the development in use of independent boarding schools for Children Looked After has not met the £0.150 million savings target as it is intrinsically linked to the numbers of children in care (which has risen). There is a £2.760 million shortfall of savings for Children Looked After. The number of purchased weeks and cost of these weeks have both risen.			
Education Services	156	156	156

3.3 Capital Programme

3.3.1. The table below shows the approved capital budget for the business units and any slippage into future years.

	Approved budget for all current and future years (£'000)	Slippage from 2019/20 into Future Years £'000	Slippage from 2019/20 into Future Years (%)	Current quarter - new approved funding / schemes (£'000)	Newly resourced spend included in slippage figures (£'000)	All Current and Future Years Forecast (£'000)
Children and Families	685	(130)	-25	125	(9)	801
£0.040m related to delays in projects coming forward for adaptations to carer properties. The spend is reactive and requirements vary significantly year-on-year making spend difficult to predict. £0.066m was due to delays in adaptations to children's centres so they are able to become children and family centres. This was because negotiations on estimates and final designs took longer than expected, but all are now agreed and construction can be completed during 2020/21. £0.025m for the Westgate children's centre safeguarding walkway was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.						

Education Services	43,327	(2,556)	-8	13,888	1,465	58,680
The slippage related to delays over multiple projects. The largest of these was the expansion of Long Lawford Primary School (£0.494m). The general reduction in 2019/20 spend on Education projects was partly as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic slowdown and lockdown towards the end of the financial year. In addition, outdoor construction projects were delayed due to poor weather conditions in February.						

4. Environmental Implications

4.1 None specific to this report.

5. Supporting Papers

- 5.1 A copy of the full report and supporting documents that went to Cabinet on the 9th July 2020 is available via the following [link](#) and in each of the Group Rooms.

6. Background Papers

None

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Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

29 September 2020

Update on Child Protection

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Committee note the updated report detailing Child Protection Performance in Warwickshire.
- 1.2 Children & Families will continue their programme of themed audits, focusing upon any areas of practice where we perform below our statistical neighbours. The next audit to focus upon understanding and resolving our relatively high numbers of repeat child protection plans.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Warwickshire Children & Families have for the last two and a half years undertaken a series of themed audits aimed at improving our child protection performance. Improving performance in terms of the experience for children and families but also to ensure our national return, is better than our statistical neighbours. These audits have been led by Calvin Smith, Service Manager for Children's Safeguarding & Support.
- 2.2 The audits have been undertaken by key decision makers within Warwickshire's child protection services e.g. Operation Managers, Team Leaders, Independent Reviewing Officers, managers from our Practice Improvement Service & Service Managers. The audit process is conducted by 15 – 20 staff members, and provides an action learning approach, encouraging reflection and learning within the auditing process.
- 2.3 After each audit, the learning has been shared in workshops with key practitioners e.g. social workers who complete child protection investigations and when appropriate with key partners. We then review progress and if necessary, repeat the audit and/or learning processes.

- 2.4 This audit seeks to provide a continuous cycle of improvement and has resulted in: -
- Our child protection numbers moving to below our statistical neighbour average;
 - Our numbers of children subject to plans for over two years being below our statistical neighbour average;
 - In the last four months, the average timescales to go to Initial Child Protection Conference, has moved to being better than our statistical neighbour average; and
 - We are currently working on understanding and improving our rates for repeat child protection plans, where our performance is below our statistical neighbour and the England average.
- 2.5 In addition to seeking to improve the rates for key indicators reported annually in the DfE Child in Need return, the audits aim to monitor and improve factors impacting the experience of the child protection process for families. For example, ensuring we capture the voice and experience of the child, the participation of parents/carers, whether plans are SMART. This process has included making recommendations to implement Restorative Practice within child protection processes, resulting in new agendas for strategy discussions.
- 2.6 While all systems can be improved, our child protection processes are now more timely, robust and restorative than they were two years ago. Our aim is a cycle of continuous improvement to provide Warwickshire children with the best child protection system and experience in England.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Audits & action plans have been completed within existing resources. The reduction in child protection numbers has allowed a focus upon lower level & usually less costly interventions. For example, reducing the numbers of social workers in children's teams who undertake higher cost work e.g. court, child protection & looked after work. Freeing resources to expand our Strengthening Families Service, who provide intensive Child in Need support, preventing escalation. Being able to establish a dedicated Child in Care 14+ Team, in part by moving resources from safeguarding and support children's teams; extending our Edge of Care Services, such as expanding our Systemic Team.

4. Environmental Implications

- 4.1 None.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 The objective to improve our child protection performance began in early 2018 after our child protection numbers reached 592, a rate of 52.3 per 10,000, against a national rate of 43 per 10,000 and 36 per 10,000 for our statistical neighbours. The first thematic audit concluded that children were no more likely to experience abuse in Warwickshire than in other parts of England but that we were at times inappropriately using the child protection process. A conclusion confirmed by OFSTED when they came for a focused visit. Interestingly the rise in child protection numbers was not distributed evenly across the county, with Warwick District witnessing the largest percentage rise, while Rugby District saw a fall.
- 5.2 The audit included a random sample of 80 children (no more than one from sibling groups) who went to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) and became subject of a child protection plan. Auditors also looked at 50% of those children over the same period where the decision was taken at conference not to have a child protection plan. Auditors found that at each stage in the child protection process, there were children that did not meet the criteria to be in the process, including 10% of children made subject to a child protection plan, where auditors did not believe the criteria was met. It appeared that we had developed a relatively risk adverse system, where opportunities to support families on a child in need basis were missed. Interestingly in 59% of families a primary reason (there can be more than one) for going to ICPC was domestic abuse, higher than the national average. In part our response to domestic abuse, was found in our second audit to be part of the reason for Warwickshire having longer running child protection plans than our statistical neighbours.
- 5.3 This first audit made key recommendations aimed to change culture and practice, which have resulted over the last two years to a decline in our child protection numbers from 52.3 per 10,000 in February 2018 to 25.1 per 10,000 in March 2020. Although this has risen during the Covid emergency and currently stands at 28 per 10,000. The table below illustrates our progress in comparison the average for England and our statistical neighbours. Last year only Essex and Leicestershire had lower child protection rates than Warwickshire, within our statistical neighbour group.

Table 1 shows the rate of children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan at 31 March per 10,000 of the 0-17 child population.

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Warwickshire	42.0	38.8	49.0	29.8	25.1
Statistical Neighbours	39.4	35.7	34.4	34.7	TBC
England	43.1	43.3	45.3	43.7	TBC

- 5.4 Our second audit in November 2018, considered why Warwickshire children were more likely to find themselves subject to child protection plans for longer than child in our statistical neighbours. Our conclusion was that we were over assessing families and were taking too long to provide direct work to families. The direct work that would protect children and help parents to better meet their children's needs, was in part being delayed by assessments. In addition to sharing the findings with decision makers and children's teams we restructured our service offer, under the leadership of John Coleman, to better focus upon direct work. As a result of these changes, we have seen a significant reduction in the numbers of children on longer running plans.
- 5.5 This second audit considered the plans of 80 randomly selected children where the ICPCs made the children subject to a child protection plan and then looked at the progress of these plans at the 9-month review. We found that many plans were not SMART, were not written in simple English, they were overly long, included unnecessary actions and regularly asked for further assessments, particularly parenting assessments and domestic abuse risk assessments. For example, in 70% of cases a parenting assessment was asked for, yet when auditors looked at all the requested assessments, they found that 53.3% were not necessary. When we reviewed progress of these plans at the 9 month Review Child Protection Conference (RCPC), it was found that 34.1% of action points had not been started by professionals, in the main due to long waiting lists for parenting assessments (22% not started), domestic abuse risk assessments (12.2% not started) and domestic abuse direct work (19.5% not started). Warwickshire had children on child protection plans & at risk, at least in part because professionals did not have the capacity to start the work, not because parents were not engaging with us.

- 5.6 When we repeated this audit in May 2020, we found the plans had become SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely) because of our work and that the waiting lists for assessments had reduced significantly. This was achieved by making better use of enhanced children & family assessments and only conducting parenting assessments when we begin the Public Law Outline process. We moved staff from completing assessment to direct work, e.g. expanding the Domestic Abuse Team and directing more staff towards direct work in the Parenting Practitioner Team. There are still delays in direct work, which we are currently working on to further improve our service to families. We are for example using the transformation funding from WCC & the DfE to expand the Domestic Abuse Service, establish a Caring Dad's Service and expand the Family Group Conferencing Service. These developments will enable us to intervene earlier and better build upon the resources of families to help themselves, in brief help to better implement Restorative Practice.
- 5.7 We report nationally on children subject to plans for over two years and these figures have improved significantly. It is believed this to a large degree is down to the audits, our learning process, the redesign of our services and the role of the Children & Families Escalation Panel, chaired by Jo Davies (Service Manager for Practice Improvement & Principle Social Worker).

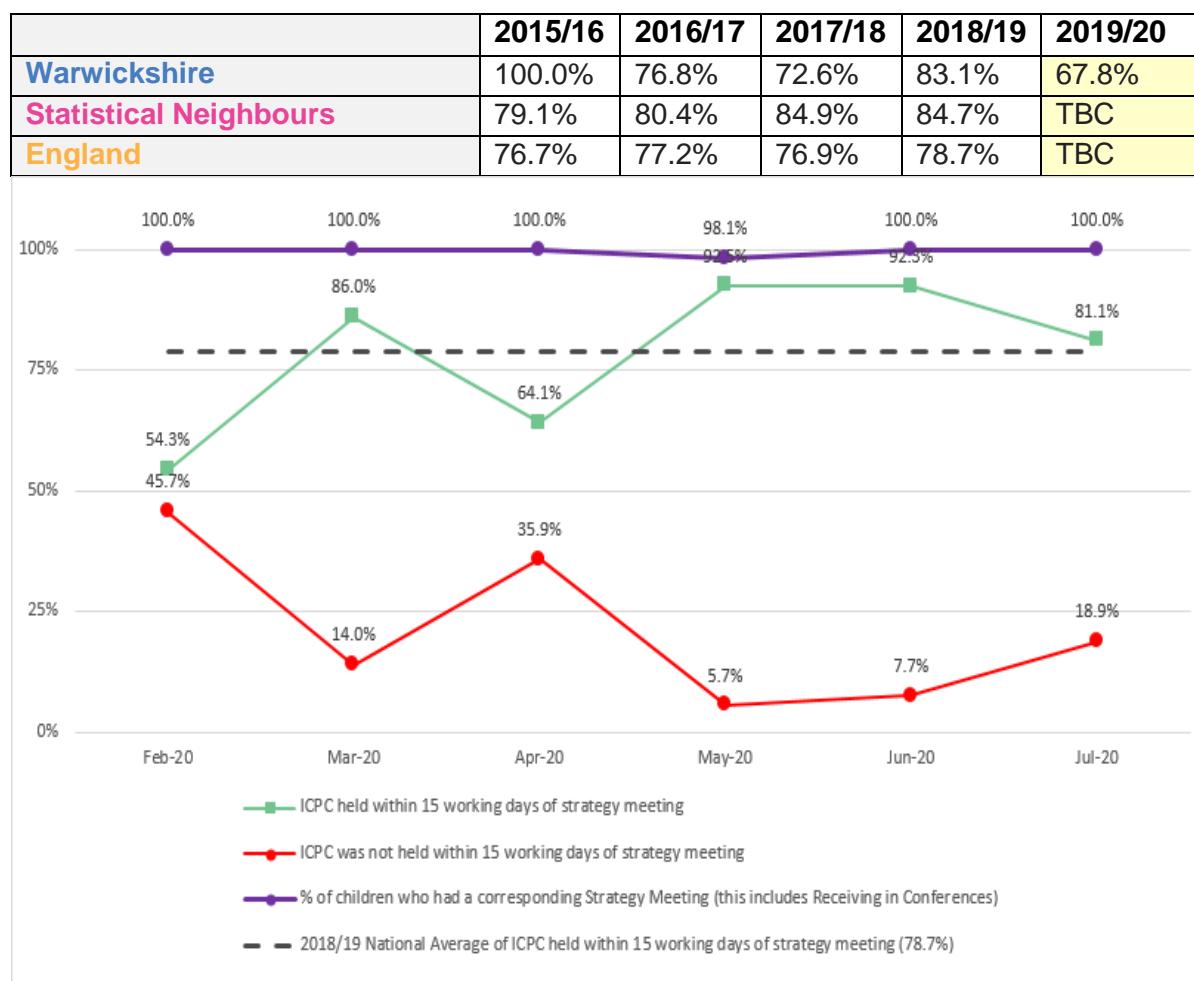
Table 2 shows Long Plans: The percentage of children who ceased to be the subject of a child protection plan during the year ending 31 March, who had been the subject of a child protection plan, continuously for two years or more.

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Warwickshire	4.9%	4.9%	5.9%	3.0%	2.3%
Statistical Neighbours	2.6%	3.3%	3.8%	3.7%	TBC
England	3.8%	3.4%	3.4%	3.3%	TBC

- 5.8 The focus of our next two audits was our relatively poor performance in respect of the timescale between a strategy discussion and Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC). Working Together sets a target of 15 days. It was concluded that we were not always following the recommendations of Working Together and had developed a culture of having repeat strategy discussions to make key decisions, decisions that Working Together say rest with the investigating social workers. We redrafted key documents and proceedings, shared these with the Safeguarding Partnership and obtained their agreement for change. We then delivered learning sets to all key managers and some partners, seeking to change practice and culture.

Table 3 below shows our performance up until the end of March 2020, while the graph illustrates our improved performance over the past few months, since we have embedded the changes. This improvement needs to be sustained but this performance is our best since 2015/16, when the method of calculating this time period changed.

Table 3 – The % of children whose initial child protection conferences were held within 15 working days of the initiation of the s.47 enquiries which led to the conference.



- 5.9 The audit we are currently working on relates to repeat child protection plans. Something that historically we performed reasonably on but where more recently we have seen our performance decline. A decline that was noted by OFSTED when they came for the inspection abandoned due to Covid. Given OFSTED's interest it is an indicator, we must be able to explain by their return and ideally have resolved the issue. Although interestingly, our partners. Leeds report they have seen a similar trend and they have also seen a significant reduction in child protection numbers since implementing Restorative Practice.

Table 4 - Of all children who had a child protection plan initiated during the year, the proportion who became the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time.

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Warwickshire	18.1%	20.8%	18.7%	18.6%	23.8%
Statistical Neighbours	19.0%	18.9%	21.6%	22.0%	TBC
England	17.9%	18.7%	20.2%	20.8%	TBC

5.10 We believe part of the decline in our performance for this indicator, is due to the progress we have made in respect of our child protection numbers. While the number of children subject to a repeat child protection plan has not risen by much, in fact by historical standards has declined, the percentage rise is significant because of the fall in the comparison number. It is also interesting to note that our percentage of short-term repeat plans since our audit process was introduced (two years ago) initially rose but is now consistently declining. We have also discovered in preparation for the audit that the average timescale between child protection plans is 42 months. Three and a half years is far too long to have kept children on plans, so that is not an option to address this issue but maybe a more proactive approach to supporting families at the end of child protection plans.

Table 5 – The average number of months between previous and current child protection plan being initiated.

Quarter	No. within 2 years	% within 2 years	Total repeat plans	No. regardless of time	Total No. CP Starts	Average no. of months between prev and current CP
Q4 17/18	17	10.1%	26	15.4%	169	30
Q1 18/19	13	8.3%	19	12.1%	157	24
Q2 18/19	4	2.9%	30	21.6%	139	54
Q3 18/19	8	8.2%	15	15.5%	97	55
Q4 18/19	18	14.6%	32	26.0%	123	23
Q1 19/20	11	8.5%	22	17.1%	129	34
Q2 19/20	22	20.8%	33	31.1%	106	23
Q3 19/20	11	12.6%	23	26.4%	87	45
Q4 19/20	12	11.4%	25	23.8%	105	42
Q1 20/21	12	10.0%	38	31.7%	120	42

- 5.11 The audit has been delayed due to the impact of Covid but we do plan for it to be completed by the end of September. We will complete a random sample of 50 families with recent repeat plans. It seems likely that the action plan will include a more proactive approach to families where child protection plans have ended e.g. contacting them after three or six months to see how they are doing and if they would like further support, on a Early Help or Child in Need basis.
- 5.12 One indicator that our audits have not considered to date is the overview of child protection activity. This is interesting as it does show that our number of section 47 investigations has not changed significantly over the past four years, what has is the number of families we support outside of a child protection process. We have always advised managers/key decision makers to invoke Section 47 powers if they believe it is necessary but to ask the question, is a child protection processes the best way to support the family. The result of our themed audits appears to be more child in need work is being completed, which many families are more readily engaging with, as they find it less intimidating. So, we are continuing to work with families but in a different way. This is not to say there could not be improvement in this area, as we do hold relatively high numbers of strategy discussions and child protection investigations, possibly a theme for future audits.

Table 6 - Child Protection Activity between 2015-2020.

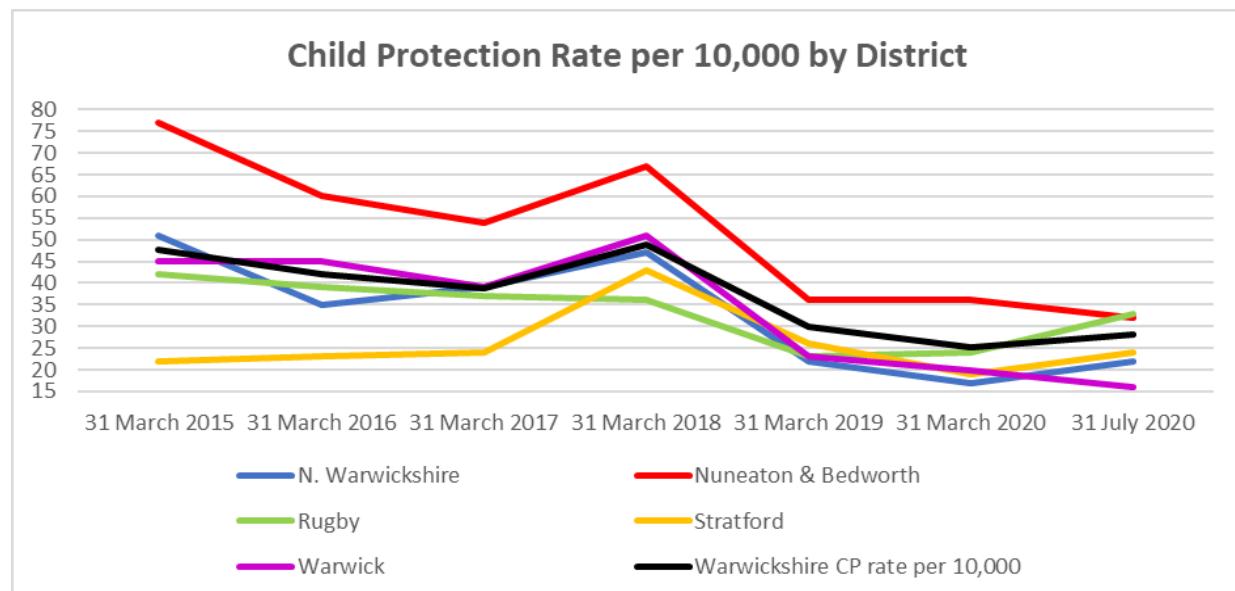
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Number of S47 Child Protection Investigations initiated	1084	1290	1426	1205	1306
Number of Children subject to an Initial Child Protection Conferences during the year	618	544	727	623	482
Number of Child Protection Plans initiated during the year	579	496	674	516	425
Number of Child Protection Plans closed during the year	639	532	544	734	473
Number of Children subject to Plans at 31 March	473	439	563	345	295

5.13 One area of the child protection process not captured in the CIN national return is the number of care proceedings issued. Warwickshire's Dual Status Policy, like that of other Safeguarding Boards propose that if we have a court order in place e.g. an Interim Care Order, we end the child protection plan. Thus, one-way child protection numbers can be reduced is to issue more care proceedings. In fact, in the first year our audits started the number of our care proceedings issued declined, last year the reduced was by just under 18%. Which enabled us to balance our Legal budget, a budget that included a savings target. Although this is a trend has reversed during the Covid emergency.

Table 7 – Child Protection Rates per 10,000 by District.

Child Protection Rate per 10,000 at Year End	31 March 2015	31 March 2016	31 March 2017	31 March 2018	31 March 2019	31 March 2020	31 July 2020
N. Warwickshire	51	35	39	47	22	17	22
Nuneaton & Bedworth	77	60	54	67	36	36	32
Rugby	42	39	37	36	23	24	33
Stratford	22	23	24	43	26	19	24
Warwick	45	45	39	51	23	20	16
Warwickshire CP rate per 10,000	47.7	42	38.8	49	29.8	25.1	28

Source: District level data is taken from historical performance reporting.



- 5.14 Another significant area of progress has been our efforts to narrow the gap in respect of child protection rates by district. While they are unlikely to ever be the same, the difference that existed seven years ago was significant and unreasonable, according to a piece of University research we engaged in some years ago. This research suggested the variance had a relationship with the approach that professionals took when taking into account the impact of low income. While our audit programme has not had a goal of narrowing the gap, bringing managers from across the county together to audit and share learning, has likely had an impact, as has our move to restorative practice. It may also be that the bringing together of line management structure of Children's Safeguarding & Support, that was begun seven years ago and finalised three years ago has also made a difference.
- 5.15 While not part of our audit timetable, we do receive weekly reports and the One Team Data Set, from Business Intelligence, to help monitor other indicators that tell us important things about the quality of our service. For example, the timeliness of the recording of statutory child protection visits, these are usually over 90% and in green. Positively during the Covid restrictions when virtual visits were allowed, our face to face visits have been consistently over 95%, evidencing our staff prioritising the need to see and support our most vulnerable children and families.
- 5.16 The Children & Families Senior Leadership Team are all committed to developing a safer and more time child protection service, and all are leading work that will enhance that system across our whole service e.g.
- Matt Greenhalgh (Service Manager) is working within the MASH, EDT and Initial Response Services, to improve timeliness and consistency at our front;
 - The new child protection training offer for schools, that is being devised by Marina Kitchen and her team (Service Manager – Early Help & Targeted Support), will support Designated Teachers to have a better understanding of thresholds and child protection processes;
 - Sally Nash (Service Manager – Youth Justice) and her team are developing an improved domestic abuse service, while also seeking to better embed contextual safeguarding, particularly within our Exploitation Team.
 - Sharon Shaw (Service Manager - Corporate Parenting) ensures safeguarding remains the top of the agenda in all the services she managers from Fostering to Leaving Care, services who support and protect some of our most vulnerable children and young people.

As a management group and a wider service, we seek to provide high support and high challenge to each other and our staff, to ensure we have a system that is best able to protect children but also to develop a service that is continually improving.

6. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 6.1 The Repeat Child Protection Plan audit will be completed by the end of September 2020, with any action plan associated with the audit being implemented by the end of October 2020.
- 6.2 We plan to continue to complete audit approximately every six months, allowing time to embed any necessary changes before preparing for the next audit. Our goal is a cycle of continuous improvement, thus embedding best practice and service for children in need of protection.

Background Papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

- Members of the Children & Youth People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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