

Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 26 October 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. General

(1) Apologies

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

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5 - 10

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.

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| 4. SEND & Inclusion Change Programme | 11 - 16 |
| The report provides an update on activity on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) & Inclusion Change Programme since previous reports to Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during June and July 2020 | |
| 5. School Budget Deficit Report | 17 - 22 |
| 6. Work Programme | 23 - 24 |

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

Disclaimers

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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 of 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, 29 September 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 Wallace Redford

Officers

Helen Barnsley, Democratic Services Officer
Nigel Minns, Strategic Director for People
Shinderpaul Bhangal, Qualifications and Credit Framework Assessor
John Coleman, Assistant Director - Children and Families
David Jones, Delivery Lead Non Social Worker Operational Manager
Sharon Shaw, Service Manager - Corporate Parenting Service
Calvin Smith, Service Manager (Safeguarding & Support)
Paul Spencer, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Carla Young, EIS Targeted Support Youth Worker

Others Present

Tarwender Atkinson (Warwickshire Children in Care Council)
Georgina Hopwood (Warwickshire Youth Council)
Elizabeth (Beth) Nelson (Warwickshire Children in Care Council)
Adam Ratcliffe (Warwickshire Youth Council)
Mawgan Stinchcomb (Warwickshire Youth Council)

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Chris Williams. Councillor Wallace Redford replaced him for this meeting.

Apologies were also received from Liann Brookes-Smith, Associate Director of Public Health.

The following co-opted members also sent apologies –

- Joseph Canon (Church Representative)
- Rev. Elaine Smith (Church Representative)
- Sean Taylor (Parent Governor Representative)

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

None.

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as true and accurate. There were no matters arising.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23 July 2020 were agreed as true and accurate. There were no matters arising.

2. Public Speaking

None.

3. Question Time

(1) Question to Cabinet Portfolio Holders

Portfolio Holders were unable to attend the meeting due to an extraordinary Cabinet meeting.

(2) Updates from Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Assistant

None.

4. Young People's Participation and Engagement Strategy

Shinderpaul Bhangal, Team Leader – Participation, introduced the report with details participation from March 2019 to September 2020 with focus on the Engagement Strategy and highlights of the engagement undertaken by the Council with Young People.

Five priority areas for Children and Young People were identified as follows –

1. Keep Healthy
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun and Do Well
4. Take Part
5. Think About Your Future

In addition, three emerging priorities have been identified –

1. Environment
2. Safety
3. Service for Young People

The Covid-19 crisis impacted the services provided to children and young people. The Committee noted that the roll out of new technology across Warwickshire County Council has allowed for new ways of working such as virtual meetings. These were not always popular with children and young people who prefer face-to-face meetings. The Committee considered that this was due to isolation being a concern for many children and young people.

The Committee noted the other examples of working during the Covid-19 crisis including –

- Food parcels delivered to young people most in need
- Baby gift boxes for new care experienced young parents
- Video messages about Covid-19 and support for mental health/wellbeing by young people for young people
- Online quizzes, cooking classes, bingo, Netflix film reviews by young people
- Young people taking part in online WCC interview panels
- Young people participating in online national and regional conferences,

The Committee was introduced to five young people from the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and the Warwickshire Youth Council (WYC) who had been invited to the meeting to give their views on engagement and participation and to answer questions from the Committee.

Beth Nelson (CiCC) stated that while virtual meetings are better suited to her lifestyle, face-to-face meetings are preferred. They are less formal and allow her to meet up with friends and staff to have proper conversations, hot drinks and a chat. Virtual meetings have tended to be much more formal.

Tarwender Atkinson (CiCC) stated that she liked both virtual and face-to-face meetings; although there can be more issue with virtual meetings such as technical issues. Online meetings can be more restrictive; genuine conversations are easier face-to-face.

Adam Ratcliffe (WYC) told the Committee that has a Young Carer with a parent who is shielding, it was very hard not to get the time away from home to speak to friends and staff about issues or concerns. It is much harder to have a private conversation on-line.

Following a question from Councillor Jonathon Chilvers in relation to the leaving care transition, Beth Nelson replied that her experience had not been a positive one and that she had no preparation for what would happen once she turned 18 years old. Tarwender Atkinson agreed that support for leaving care should be started earlier than 16 or 17 years old to give young people a chance to properly plan for their future. The Committee noted the comments in relation to mental health and the impact poor preparation can have; as well as the additional impact of Covid-19 on those going through the leaving care process. Beth Nelson confirmed that she was very well looked after and cared for while she was in foster care and then suddenly found herself on her own with no support and no one to relate to.

Sharon Shaw, Service Manager - Corporate Parenting confirmed that a lot of work is based on the views of young people and thanked the young people for their comments. It was noted that there has been a significant increase in young people “staying put” in foster care after they turn 18 years old in order to provide more support. A new project is due to start where the leaving care transition is started with young people at 14 years old. Sharon Shaw confirmed that officers are aware there is a lot of work to do in this area but that many improvements have already been made.

Following a question from Councillor Corinne Davies, Beth Nelson told the Committee that while she felt that the mental health services provided by the Council are good, the waiting times are terrible and that it took a long time for her to get the help she needed, during which time, her mental health got worse. The Committee noted Beth’s suggestion that it could be beneficial for young people to be able to share their experiences, to get more involved and share ideas between themselves.

Following a question from Councillor Pam Williams about young carers, Adam Ratcliffe stated that group sessions for young carers would be beneficial, especially if the sessions could be held face-to-face with social distancing; even if they were small groups it would allow young carers to get out of the house and learn life skills.

Shinderpaul Bhangal acknowledged that change does take time to filter through the system but that the service was in a much more positive place than 18 months ago. The service can learn a lot from the children and young people who can help shape the service moving forward.

Sharon Shaw asked that it be put on record how proud officers were of the young people who attended today’s meeting; they were confident and articulate in sharing their views and experiences as well as being very open to being involved in discussions in the future. Councillor Dan Gissane added his thanks acknowledging that it had been valuable for the members to hear their views. Councillor Dominic Skinner also agreed that listening to the views of all the young people was exactly what members needed to hear. He thanked them for being

It was agreed that an update on the points discussed would be presented at a meeting in twelve months’ time. The Committee thanked all the young people for their attendance and look forward to welcoming them back to meetings in the future.

Resolved

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.

The Committee consider a cross party group to include children and young people with relevant experience to give impetus to specific priorities raised by children and young people from the Children in Care Council and the Warwickshire Youth Council that require more traction.

7. Council Plan 2020 – 2025 Quarterly Progress Report: April 2020 to June 2020

Ian Budd, Assistant Director – Education Services presented the report for the period April 1st, 2020 to June 30th, 2020 was considered and approved by Cabinet on 10th September 2020.

The following points were highlighted to the Committee –

- Education Services are holding weekly meetings with Headteachers to check in on staff well-being. Feedback on the meetings has been positive from all involved.
- Following a question from Councillor Corinne Davies in relation to young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) it was confirmed that contact had continued throughout lock down via telephone or video calls. Many NEET young people identified over the summer months were no back in a school environment.
- Case work is still underway with children not yet back in school or registered as being home schooled.

Following the circulation of a briefing note in relation to the Education Sufficiency Annual update, it was agreed that a full report will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting (date to be agreed).

Resolved

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.

5. Council Plan 2020 – 2025; Progress Report

Resolved

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.

7. Child Protection

Calvin Smith, Service Manager - Children's Safeguarding & Support presented the report which provides an update on the Child Protection Service and the steps that have been taken.

The Committee noted that the service identified a need for improvement two and a half years ago in order to align with statistical neighbours and themed audits were introduced. The goal of the audits was to improve the experience for children and families and to become the best Child Protection Service in the country.

The Committee was asked to note Table 4 (page 7 of the report) showing the proportion of children who became the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time. The Committee also learnt that some children had been on plans for too long; and they could not be taken off the plans as the council had not completed assessments.

Following a comment from Councillor Jonathan Chilvers that the report was a positive read due to the improvements that had been made to the service. It was acknowledged that not all cases are the same with children presenting with a need for different and complex assessments.

Following a question from Councillor Pam Williams in relation to allegations made against foster carers, it was confirmed that the process had not yet been audited but that it was on the plan moving forward. It was noted that other investigations may be happening following an allegation, such as criminal investigations.

Resolved

That the Committee note the updated report detailing Child Protection Performance in Warwickshire.

That the Children & Families service 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.

The meeting rose at 13:10

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Chair

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee**SEND & Inclusion Change Programme****26 October 2020****Recommendation**

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers and comments on the report.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The report provides an update on activity on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) & Inclusion Change Programme since previous reports to Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during June and July 2020

2. SEND & Inclusion Change Programme

- 2.1 The vision for SEND in Warwickshire is that all our children and young people lead a fulfilling life and are part of their community.
- 2.2 In June and July 2020, Cabinet approved the establishment of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme to bring about required change to delivering statutory duties within allocated resources. There are 31 projects that underpin for the delivery of SEND transformation, financial recovery and sustainability, and the continuation of statutory duties.
- 2.3 We know that things need to change because, as outlined in previous reports, outcomes for our children and young people with SEND have been getting worse and we are spending well above our allocated budget. Warwickshire needs to introduce a whole system change.
- 2.4 We must focus on 'promoting inclusion' in mainstream settings, giving schools the skills and resources to meet the needs of learners in their local schools, and building the confidence of parents and carers. Through the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme we will work together to:
- Improve outcomes for our children and young people with SEND
 - Take decisions in a clear, fair and transparent way
 - Ensure that systems are sustainable, so that we are working within our allocated funding
- 2.5 Children and young people with SEND are our children. We want to change the conversation in our local system so that we can focus on how we can support our children and young people where they are, enable them to progress and celebrate their achievements.

3. National Funding update

- 3.1 The major update since the last committee meeting is that on 20th July 2020, the Department for Education (DfE) made an [announcement regarding high needs funding](#) for the financial year 2021-22. As a result of this, the financial projections are being updated. Broadly speaking, Warwickshire Is now expecting to receive an additional £4m per year from 2021/22 onwards compared to the original forecast. More information is included below in the financial implications section of this report.

4. Programme and Project updates

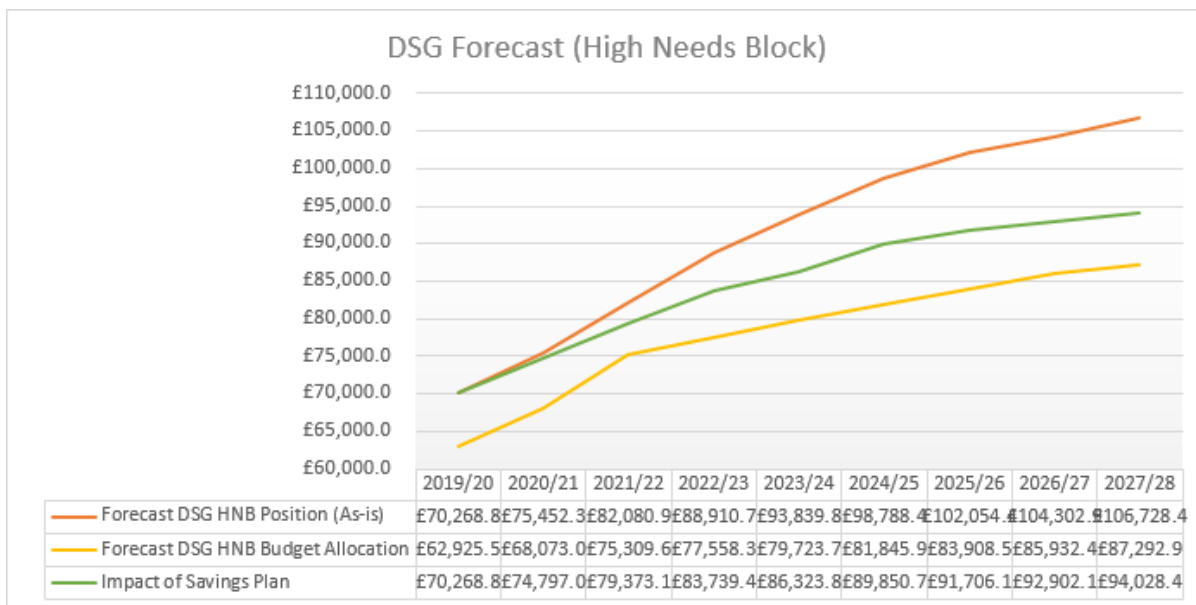
- 4.1 The SEND & Inclusion Change Programme consists of 31 projects (see Appendix 1). Most activity over July to August has taken place at programme level establishing the framework for those projects. Of note are:
- a) 7 projects have started and are live
 - b) A further 6 projects to start this term
 - c) 1 full business case approved (including full project plan and resources); 11 in draft
 - d) Recruitment of an additional three project managers
 - e) Communications strategy & financial monitoring strategy
 - f) Draft performance dashboard and baselining
 - g) Initial plan for organisational development
 - h) First meeting of Programme Board (including Strategic Directors for Resources, Communities and People Directorates)
 - i) Equality Impact Assessment being updated
- 4.2 Most of the first cohort of projects to have started are still in full business case stage. This means that projects have started to map and confirm the 'as-is' position. Each project then sets out the 'to-be process' with a plan of implementation which is approved by the programme board.
- 4.3 Noteworthy, is the progress on the following:
- a) *Establishing a new special school on the Pears site:* Thrive Education Partnership has been approved by DfE as the sponsor for the new school, following a presumption competition. The plan remains on track to open the new school in September 2021.
 - b) *Ensuring that learners receive their educational entitlement:* New processes drafted and in engagement stage to ensure children out of school are monitored and placed in a timely manner
 - c) *Development of a Quality Assurance Framework for EHC plans:* Quality assurance framework drafted and in engagement stage.
- 4.4 In addition, we continue to expand resourced provision as the previous round of commissioning new provision concludes. In September, Cabinet approved new resourced provision at Paddox Primary School and in October new resourced provision at Henley Primary School was also approved.

4.5 There is a commitment to engage with all stakeholders through the programme. As part of this an Elected Members Task and Finish Group is being established to provide assurance to Members on the programme and to identify areas where Members can add value. It is proposed that this group reports back to Overview & Scrutiny Committee in February 2021.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 As a result of the additional funding from central government, the overall cumulative deficit forecast by the end of 2024/25 has reduced from approximately £80m to £62m prior to Change Programme activities.

5.2 Taking into account planned savings from the Change Programme the overall cumulative deficit forecast by the end of 2024/25 has reduced from approximately £55m to £37m.



5.3 The additional funding is clearly welcomed. The formula used to distribute additional resources does, as before, favour more urban areas, Therefore the continued case for sufficient funding for SEND & Inclusion is likely to led by councils in the f40 group (generally upper tier and rural local authorities).

5.4 The remaining gap between budget allocation and forecast expenditure reinforces the need for progressing the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme.

6. Environmental Implications

6.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

7.1 The next steps are:

- a) Approval of full business cases for cohort 1 projects (September-October) – these include the Impower trial projects with schools
- b) Communications and engagement with school leaders and parent representatives (September-October)
- c) Recruitment of business change leads (October-November)
- d) Discussion with Schools Forum regarding allocation of resources (October – December)
- e) Establish Elected Members Task and Finish Group (November-February)
- f) Development of Planning Preparation Documents for cohort 2 projects (November – December)

Supporting Documents

1. DSG Recovery Plan, 9th July 2020, Cabinet
2. SEND & Inclusion Change Programme, 11th June 2020, Cabinet
3. Allocation of 2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant, 30th January 2020, Cabinet
4. High Needs Block, 16th December 2019, Cabinet
5. SEND & Inclusion Strategy, 11th April 2019, Cabinet

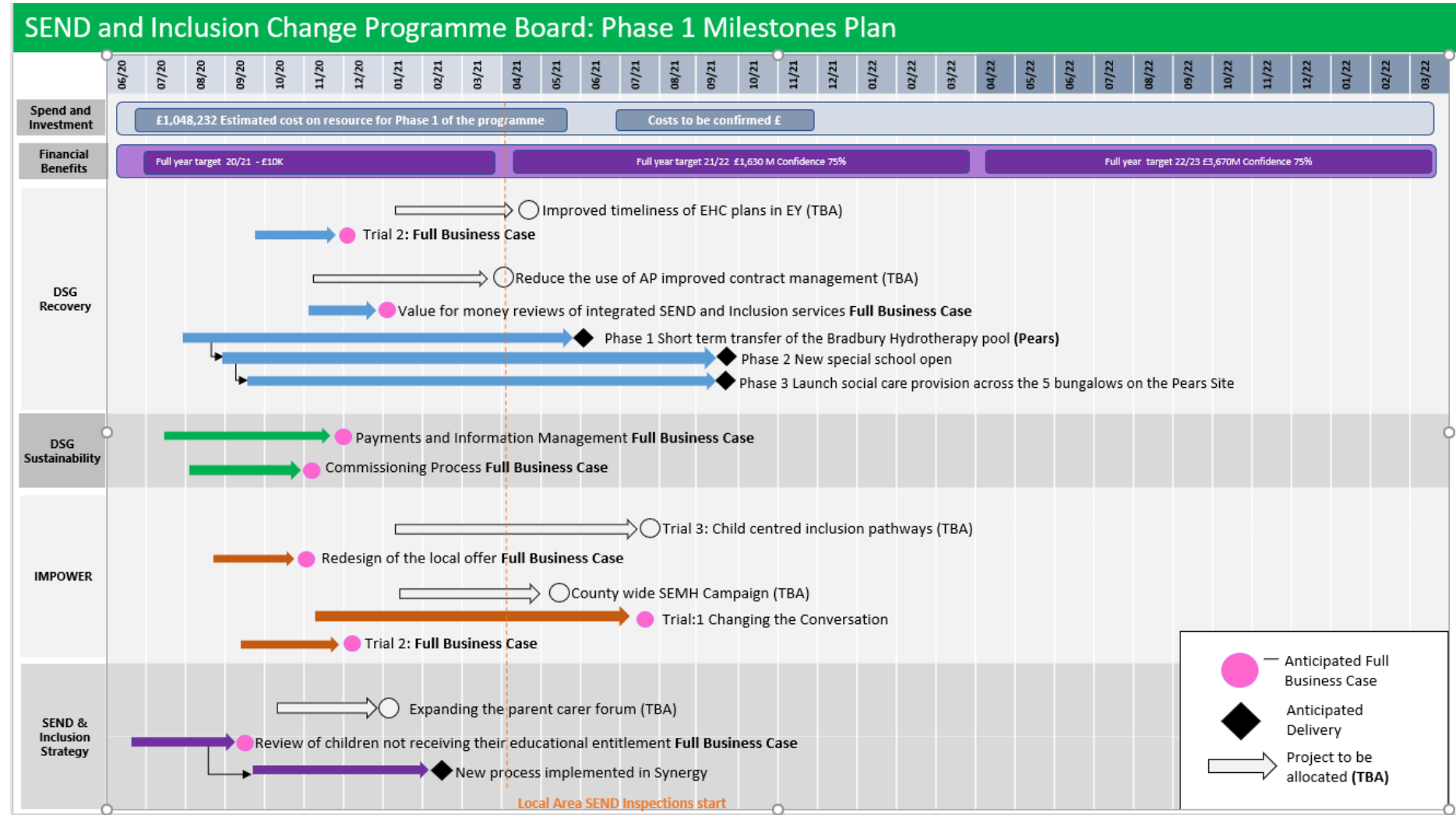
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Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Education & Learning	colinhayfield@warwickshire.gov.uk

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

Local Member(s): None

Other members: Councillors Dahmash, P Williams, Chilvers, Skinner and C Davies

APPENDIX 1: Milestones Plan for first projects and long list of projects



Through the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme we will work together to:

DSG Recovery & Sustainability

Phase 1

- New Special school (Pears)
- Improve timeliness of EHC plans in Early Years
- Trial 2: Needs-Focus Panels
- Service Reviews
- Trial 1: Changing the conversation
- Reduce the use of Alternative provision
- Finance Payments and information management
- SEND Commissioning of High needs places
- Expanding and Improving success to early intervention in Early Years

Phase 2

- Supported Internships
- Review special schools funding matrix
- Resourced provision

Improve outcomes for our children and young people with SEND

Take decisions in a clear, fair and transparent way, and

Ensure that systems are sustainable, so that we are working within our allocated funding

IMPOWER

Phase 1

- Redesign of the Local offer webpages
- Trail 3: Child centred inclusion pathways
- County wide SCMH campaign

Phase 2

- Development of WCC Transitions Guidance

SEND & Inclusion Strategy

Phase 1

- QA Framework (EHC plans)
- Review of Children not receiving their education entitlement
- Expanding the Parent Carer Forum

Phase 2

- Working with Schools to develop peer to peer support on SEND
- Improving outcomes for SEND learners at each key stage
- Parenting plan to support families (early help)
- JSN Needs assessment

Phase 3

- Tribunal Pathway
- Annual reviews
- Implementation of Ready Reckoner
- SEND transport policy review
- Disability Register
- Independent Travel Training

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

October 2020

Deficit Budgets in Warwickshire Schools as at the end of the Summer Term 2020

Recommendation

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the deficit school budget situation at the end of the summer term and the potential risks to Warwickshire. Members are asked to note the figures are only accurate at the time of the WES finance visit to the school and there may be disparity with the current situation.

1.0 Background

The paper sets out to share the current financial position of schools with deficit budgets or projected deficit budgets at the end of the summer term 2020 particularly noting those with deficits of above 5%.

To share the high-risk schools/situations where the deficit may need to be resolved by WCC.

To showcase examples of where savings have been made and recovery plans put in place in schools following interventions/investments by WCC.

To identify risks and amendments to school budgets including government changes, COVID-19 and WCC decisions.

2.0 Summary

- 2.1 At the end of the Summer Term there were 139 Local Authority maintained schools across Warwickshire, covering all phases of education including Nursery, Infant, Junior, Primary, Secondary and Special Schools. 34 (24.46%) schools are projecting a deficit budget situation at the end of the 2020/21 financial year. This is an increase in the number of schools overall. However, 12 schools predict a deficit in excess of 5% which is a reduction from 14 reported as reported at the end of the Spring Term 2020.
- 2.2 It should be noted that school visits took place during the summer term and the data presented reflects the position from these visits.

- 2.3 The table below shows the current projected total deficit and the split between Primary, Secondary and Nursery education over two years and the trends. This position for the maintained Nursery Schools remains a significant concern.

Year	Number of schools	Total/reported projected deficit	Primary	Secondary	Nursery	Special
2020/21	34	-£2,295,795	-£939,526	-£1,039,274	-£279,7453	-£37,250
2021/22	31	-£3,208,015	-£1,583,851	-£1,010,227	-£613,937	£0

- 2.4 The current deficit budget positions for individual schools at the end of the Summer Term 2020 have been identified - note this can change on a daily basis, therefore it is only current at the time of the summer term visit. There have been additional challenges in ensuring the accuracy of budget positions in the current COVID situation.

3.0 Sustainability Action Group (SAG)

- 3.1 The challenge and support through SAGs enables closer monitoring of school budgets and interventions being actioned early on. The expenditure made through this system is enabling greater longer-term savings as identified through the progress reports.
- 3.2 An application to draw down money from the Schools in Deficit Reserve was agreed by the Strategic Sustainability Action Group on 30 April 2020. This has enabled a collaborative response to the deployment of 'specialist leaders' within areas of expertise including Business Management/Finance, SEN, Governance, HR and Leadership. Their role is to support schools to ensure they have robust recovery plans in place.
- 3.3 Corporate Board are aware of any current risks to the Local Authority and progress that has been made on recovery plans. Following interventions through SAG meetings several schools have either eradicated their deficit positions or significantly reduced them.

4.0 COVID-19

- 4.1 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is still yet to be quantified, and a better picture will be available in the autumn term 2020 report.
- 4.2 The DfE have announced £650 million COVID-19 Catch Up Premium Funding for 2020-21 for all state funded mainstream (primary and secondary) schools and special schools. This will mean an increase of £80 per pupil in years reception through to year 11. For special schools the amount is £240 per school place. The funding will be provided in 3 tranches. Part payments will be made in Autumn 2020 with a 2nd grant early in 2021 and the final payment

in the summer term 2021. This means a typical primary school of 200 pupils will receive £16,000 while a typical secondary school of 1,000 pupils will receive £80,000.

- 4.3 Although funding has been calculated on a per pupil or per place basis, it is proposed schools should use the sum available to them as a single total from which to prioritise support for pupils according to their need. As the catch-up premium has been designed to mitigate the effects of the unique disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19), the grant will only be available for the 2020 to 2021 academic year. It will not be added to schools' baselines in calculating future years' funding allocations.
- 4.4 Governors will be expected to scrutinise the spending of this money. It is recommended that schools have a separate budget code for this funding which is monitored through WES finance. Whilst this is not likely to decrease the numbers of schools with a deficit budget it may go some way to ensuring the impact of the pandemic has not increased the number of schools with a deficit.

5.0 'Smaller' Schools

- 5.1 For 2020-21 we have recognised the challenges for small rural schools, and we have allocated sparsity funding to 14 eligible schools.
- 5.2 Small rural schools are defined as those schools with less than an average of 21.4 pupils per year group and the next nearest compatible school is more than 2 miles away, as the crow flies. The maximum sparsity funding is £26,000 for primary schools and £67,600 for secondary schools. The ESFA has already announced that sparsity funding for primary schools in 2021-22 will rise to a maximum of £45,000 and £70,000 for secondary schools.
- 5.3 Whilst the allocation of sparsity funding has been helpful for 14 small rural schools the definition and application of the funding has not benefitted 19 other 'smaller' schools. These 19 are not deemed to be rural by EFSA criteria due to the distance of their next nearest compatible school, but they do meet the class size criteria. A 'smaller' school's strategy is to be developed.

6.0 Pay Awards

- 6.1 2021-22 Funding Announcement
In July 2020 the government announced changes to the National Funding Formula for 2021-22. The main changes were an increase in funding factors and the minimum funding per pupil guarantee so as the cost of the teacher pay award increases for 2018 and 2019 along with the teachers' employers pension increase for 2019 are now included in the base formula for 2021-22. These changes in formula funding will only address additional historic costs to schools and will not any future additional costs, most notably, proposed admin staff pay award for April 2020 teachers pay award from September 2020.

The government is currently consulting on the teachers' pay award for September 2020. The proposal is that the lowest qualified teacher band will receive an increase of 5.50% which is gradually tapered through the next 5 pay points until the increase is 2.75% for band 6. All other pay bands for newly qualified teachers, leadership teams and headteacher will also increase by 2.75%. Overall, the government has calculated that this will add 3.10% to the overall teachers' pay bill for Warwickshire schools. Our own initial estimates suggest that the real increase for our maintained schools is slightly higher at an average of 3.2%. In any event both these estimates are above the 2.00% schools had previously been advised to use in forecasting future budget plans. Further work is currently taking place to assess the impact of the teachers' pay award on individual schools and the impact will be discussed during finance visits during the autumn term.

Current admin pay negotiations suggest that pay for this group will increase by 2.75% from April 2020. This is above the 2% schools have been advised about when estimating budget positions for 2021-22.

7.0 Maintained Nursery Schools

- 7.1 The financial future of our 6 Maintained Nursery Schools are a concern. Two maintained nursery schools were in financial deficit at the end of 2019-20 with another three forecasting a deficit position by the end of 2020-21. The Maintained Nursery Schools are seeing funding cut both through the reduction in their supplementary funding which is only guaranteed until March 2021 and moving to the Early Years National Funding Formula in line with all other early year's providers.
- 7.2 Whilst the government announced its proposals for 3 of the 4 DSG funding allocations it has not set out its plans for the funding for Early Years providers in 2021-22.
- 7.3 Our 6 Maintained Nursery Schools receive an average of £110,000 (£138,000 in 2018-19) per school in supplementary funding and is in recognition that these 6 schools are 'maintained' schools and have additional costs, for example, they must have a Headteacher and qualified teaching staff.
- 7.4 Without this ongoing funding support the financial viability of these schools may not be sustainable much beyond 2021-22.

8.0 Priorities

- 8.1 Identification of any impact of the COVID -19 pandemic through Autumn Term school visits.
- 8.2 The impact of the pay award on schools' budgets must be explored in the autumn term visits as these are not being funded through the changes to the National Funding Formula for 2021-22.

- 8.3 The on-going support and challenge for schools that are projecting deficit budgets to ensure they are addressing the situation early on. This is through SAG meetings and the collaborative Strategic Sustainability group to ensure Recovery Plans are in place.
- 8.4 A smaller school's strategy to ensure schools are sustainable even with smaller pupil numbers.
- 8.5 Addressing the Maintained Nursery School situation.

Supporting Documents

- Current Deficit Protocol

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Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 26 October 2020

Meeting Date and status	Reports	Details
26 October 2020 @ 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEND & Inclusion Change Programme including DSG update School Deficit 	Additional meeting
26 October 2020 @ 2pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the RISE service The All Age Autism Strategy 	Joint meeting to be held with the Adult OSC
17 November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House Project Nuneaton Education Strategy Early Help, One Year On – <i>to be circulated as BN before meeting</i> Youth Service Offer – <i>to be circulated as BN before meeting</i> PEARS update – <i>to be circulated as BN before meeting</i> 	Young People to attend in relation to House Project
23 February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of Keeping Families Together 	

Outstanding Reports

- Nitrous Oxide Canisters – Nigel Minns to provide data from Trading Standards and the Drug & Alcohol team.
- Education Sufficiency Annual Update – To be presented at additional meeting 26/10/2020

Briefing Notes/Information to be circulated outside the meeting

- Annual Reports; Corporate Parenting; Fostering, adoption and IRO reports to be circulated jointly (awaiting the final version of the fostering report) – John Coleman

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