

# Schools Forum

Date: Thursday 24 June 2021  
Time: 2.00 pm  
Venue: Microsoft Teams

Items on the agenda: -

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting** 3 - 6
3. **Consultations Timetable 2021-22** 7 - 10
4. **SEND & Inclusion Change Programme** 11 - 34
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**Monica Fogarty**  
Chief Executive  
Warwickshire County Council  
Shire Hall, Warwick

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## Item 2

**WARWICKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM****Voting and actions of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021****Microsoft Teams Meeting 14:00****SCHOOL FORUM MEMBERS**

Andy Dix	Paddox Primary School (Maintained Governor)
Angela Fox	Welcombe Hills School (Special Schools representative)
Craig Mckee	Budbrooke Primary School (Academy)
Faye Padfield	Abbots Farm Infant School (Maintained Governor)
Fergus Durrant	Campion School (Academy Governor)
Jane Burrows	Myton School (Academy)
Kevin Griffiths	Coten End Primary School (Maintained Governor)
Larry Granelly	Wellesbourne and Tysoe Federation (Maintained Governor)
Martin Davies	Telford Junior School (Maintained Governor)
Mary Anne Burrows	PVI Representative
Matthew Bown	St. Paul's Church of England Primary School (Maintained)
Michael Morran	Rugby High School (Academy Governor)
Nicci Burton (Vice Chair)	Atherstone and Bedworth Heath Nursery Schools (Maintained)
Nick Evans	Evergreen School (Special Schools Representative)
Philip Johnson (Chair)	Whitestone Infant School (Maintained Governor)
Rebecca Harrison	Park Hill Thorns Federation (Maintained)
Rose Gunn	Arden Forest Infant School (Maintained)
Sarah Bromley	PVI Representative
Seán Taylor	Representative from a Teacher's Union
Sybil Hanson	Coventry Church of England Diocese Representative

**OFFICERS/OBSERVERS**

Andrew Felton	Assistant Director - Finance
Ian Budd	Assistant Director - Education Services
Purnima Sherwood	Service Manager for Finance
Neill Butler	School Funding & Strategy Manager (Clerk to Forum)
Bern Timings	Education Capital, Sufficiency and Admissions Lead Commissioner
Duane Chappell	Strategy & Commissioning Manager (SEND and Inclusion)
Brian Smith	Finance Portfolio Lead - Technical Specialist, Education, Children & Families

**1. APOLOGIES** (Started 1:08, Ended 1:46)

**Apologies were received from the following members:**

Alison Davies	The Avon Valley School (Maintained)
Amy Woodward	North Leamington School (Academy)
Clive Sentence	Alcester Grammar School (Academy)
Joss Andrews	Abbots Farm Junior School (Maintained)
Councillor Colin Hayfield	Portfolio Holder – Education & Learning
Andrew Felton	Assistant Director for Finance

**The following members did not attend and did not give their apologies:**

Adam Hardy	Catholic Church Archdiocese
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**MATTERS FOR DECISION:**

**2. Voting and actions from the last meeting** (Started 1:46, Ended 2:20)

Agree as a true record.

**No actions.**

**3. DSG Budget 2021-22 (Brian Smith)** (Started 2:20, Ended 13:46)

**Action:** Future DSG Monitoring Reports will include a section on balances on the 4 DSG Blocks. This will give a full picture of the overall finance position rather than just the in-year position.

**Voting:** Schools forum members unanimously approved the Central Schools Service Block budget for 2021-22 with 15 of a possible 19 members voting in favour.

**4. Future Meeting Date (Neill Butler)** (Started 13:46, Ended 17:28)

**No actions.**

**Voting:** All 19 Schools forum members agreed to the new meeting dates as set out in the report recommendation.

**5. Admission Service Historical Charging (Bern Timings)** (Started 17:28, Ended 21:44)

**Actions:** Bern Timings to bring back a paper to a future meeting to address a further issue raised by Jane Burrows concerning legal advice that had previously been give to the Admissions Working Group.

Jane Burrows to provide a list of LA officers who were on the Admissions Working Group.

**6. DSG Monitoring Report 2020-21 (Brian Smith)** (Started 21:44, Ended 28:50)

**No actions.**

**7. Education Sufficiency Annual Update 2020 (Bern Timings)** (Started 28:50, Ended 39:21)

**No actions.**

**8. Academy Update (Neill Butler)** (Started 39:21, Ended 46:30)

**Action:** Faye Padfield raised the issue that some schools were not showing the correct MAT on the appendix due to changes in sponsors. Neill to review and check the academy status of schools.

**9. SEND & Inclusion Change Programme (Duane Chappell)** (Started 46:30, Ended 1:02:20)

**Actions:** Schools forum members to let Duane know if they would like to support any projects on the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme or if they know all colleagues that could also support this programme.

**10. Assistant Directors Update (Ian Budd)** (Started 1:02:20, Ended 1:23:28)

**No actions.**

**11. Chair's Business** (Started 1:23:28, Ended 1:25:59)

The Chair signposted schools form members to a number of consultation from the ESFA and encouraged members to respond to these consultation if possible.

If you would like to listen to the full meeting please click [here](#)

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## Item 3

### Schools Forum

**24 June 2021**

### Consultation Timetable 2021-22

This report relates to maintained and academy schools and is for approval

#### Recommendation

Schools forum is recommended to:

1. Representatives from maintained schools to approve the timetable for de-delegation for 2022-23.
2. Representatives from maintained schools to note and approve the reasons for not changing the Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools.
3. All schools forum representatives to approve the timetable for any potential need to consult with schools on the National Funding Formula and any potential 0.5% disapplication.

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Each Year schools forum are required to approve proposed timetables for a number of statutory consultations.
- 1.2 These cover the following areas and the following schools forum representatives are required to approve the respective timetable proposals:
  - De-delegation of funding from mainstream maintained schools - maintained school representatives
  - Changes to the Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools - maintained school representatives
  - Amendments to the 'soft' National Funding Formula – all schools forum representatives
  - Disapplication to transfer up to 0.5% from the schools Block DSG to the High Needs Block DSG – all schools forum representatives

## 2. De-delegation

- 2.1 De-delegation is an option that enables some services to maintained schools to be provided centrally and the funding to do so be retained by the local authority. If de-delegation stops then the centrally retained funding would be delegated in the main school budget and the local authority would either stop providing or charge for the service.
- 2.2 For information, the services approved by schools forum maintained schools representatives for de-delegation in 2020-21 were as follows:

Service	Primary	Secondary
Free Schools Meal Eligibility	✓	✓
English as an Additional Language	✓	✓
Trade Union Facility Time Funding	✓	✓
School Improvement	✓	x
Gypsy and Romany Travellers	✓	x
Behaviour Support Services	✓	x
Medical Referrals for Employees	✓	x

- 2.3 Warwickshire currently has 1 secondary maintained school and 124 maintained primary schools.
- 2.4 The proposed de-delegation timetable is as follows:

Date	Action
Monday, 5 July 2021	Consultation sent to all maintained Primary and Secondary Schools (Headteachers and Chairs of Governors)
Friday, 17 September 2021	Deadline for Schools to respond to the consultation
Thursday 30, September 2021	Schools forum receive responses from schools and make de-delegation decisions for 2022-23 budgets.

## 3. Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools

- 3.1 Occasionally the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) publishes amendments to the national Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools.
- 3.2 The last amendment was published on 23 April 2021 and covered the following 2 items:

- Delaying the return of the Schools Financial Value Standards returns for 2020-21 to 28 May 2021. These returns are used by the Local Authority to inform their programme of financial assessment and audit.
  - The introduction of International Financial Reporting Standard 16 on capital and leasing has been delayed until April 2022.
- 3.3 Base on the above, Warwickshire's Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools does not require any changes. Therefore, it is recommended that no amendments to the scheme and thereby no consultation will take place this year.

#### **4. National Funding Formula and 0.5% Disapplication**

- 4.1 Since the introduction of the National Funding Formula from 1 April 2018 Warwickshire schools forum, with the approval of councillors, has moved to replicating the 'hard' formula and this is seen as a steady state approach.
- 4.2 The first indication of Warwickshire funding is expected to be towards the end of August 2021 when the ESFA publishes indicative DSG allocations for 2022-23. These will be based on October 2020 school census data pupil numbers and will be updated in December 2021 to reflect the actual October 2021 census data.
- 4.3 Financial modelling will be undertaken when the indicative DSG allocations are published in August to understand the overall affordability of continuing with the steady state and what headroom may be available to fund other options. One of these may be the transfer of up to 0.5% of schools block DSG to the high needs DSG, known as the 0.5% disapplication, in line with the transfer undertaken in 2021-22.
- 4.4 The proposed timetable for consulting schools and schools forum on funding proposals for 2022-23 is as follows:

Date	Action
Monday, 27 September 2021	Send out consultation to schools on any changes to the 'soft' National Funding Formula and proposals on any 0.5% disapplication. Consultation will run for 5 weeks
Thursday, 11 November 2021	Provisional date for extraordinary schools forum to discuss outcomes from consultation with schools.
Friday, 19 November 2021	Deadline for submitting any disapplication to the ESFA to move up to 0.5% of funding from the schools block to the high needs block

**Neill Butler**

School Funding and Strategy Manager

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## Item 4

### Schools Forum

June 2021

### SEND & Inclusion Change Programme

#### Recommendations

1. That schools forum comments upon progress of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme

#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The report provides an update on activity on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) & Inclusion Change Programme since the previous report to school forum.

#### 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 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
  - Secure education, employment and training for our young people with SEND (age 16-25)
- 2.3 Of the 31 projects, seven of projects have targets to close the gap between funding allocation and expenditure. Three existing items have savings attached for 2020/21, three more expect reductions in spend in 2021/22.

### **3. Summary update on Programme and Projects**

- 3.1 The project approach adopted by Warwickshire County Council is:
- a) Project have initial approval of a Project Proposal Document (PPD)
  - b) A business case is then developed including mapping of the 'as-is' position and 'to-be' position, along with the plan to move from one to the other and confirmation of the benefits
  - c) Projects go live for implementation
- 3.2 Overall, fifteen projects are currently active with seven projects are live, six are developing full business case and plan, two are developing Project Proposal Documents. Further to this one project has been completed and three have been deferred.
- 3.3 The full list of projects and the timeline for phase 1 is attached at Appendix 1. Update on projects in the DSG Recovery and DSG Sustainability strands are reported in Appendix 3 (data on financial years).
- 3.4 Also attached is the SEN2 benchmarking data. Each year in January, each local authority submits the data on the calendar year (note – different to financial year). This allows for comparison in trends year on year. The DfE publish all statistics in May. The latest benchmarking data is attached at Appendix 2.

### **4. Overall financial impact so far**

- 4.1 Quality and performance measures are reported to the SEND Partnership and the SEND & inclusion Change Programme Board. This report focuses on financial impact under the objective to achieve financial sustainability.
- 4.2 As set out in the DSG outturn report, in-year spend on the High Needs Block was £63.713m – above the £55.103 allocation. This overspend of £8.610m is lower than was forecast at period 11 (£10.041m), but higher than the original forecast of the from April 2020 which anticipated £7.379m overspend (with the impact of the change programme to reduce this to £6.724m).
- 4.3 Being precise on cause and effect remains a barrier until all financial information is stored in the Synergy system alongside activity and profile data. This is part of the project 'Implementation of the SEND finance module in Synergy' and has been delayed due to the need to resolve details on implementation with the supplier.

4.4 That said, there is clear direction of travel on key factors affecting spend:

- a) **More children and young people with SEND are being supported in mainstream settings.** 1,430 children were supported in mainstream settings at January 2021 compared to 1,275 the year before. This is lower than the 2017 level (1,475). New guidance to schools on the graduated approach is also being trialled in the summer term ready for roll out in the autumn term.
- b) **More children are supported in state-funded specialist settings.** This was expected due to population growth, increased complexity of need and less use of independent specialist provision (ISP). 1,544 children are supported in state-funded specialist setting compared to 1,217 in 2017.
- c) **The numbers and percentage of children and young people attending independent specialist provision (ISP) is reducing.** Comparatively, Warwickshire now has 5.5% of children placed in ISP compared to 5% nationally. Warwickshire was at 10.6% in 2015. The intention is to reduce this to be in line with national levels.
- d) **The number of children attending specialist resourced provision is increasing.** However, this is still below national levels and we have not reached full utilisation of current settings. The intention is to increase this further.
- e) **The growth in new EHC plans has reduced from 12.0% to 4.1%.** The number of new plans issued in the calendar year 202 was 583 compared with 560 the previous year.
- f) **The number of EHC plans in pre-school years remains low.** The project is working to identify the appropriate time for requesting a EHC needs assessment in early years as a form of early intervention. Most pre-school children with an EHC plan have it issued in the summer term prior to Reception year.
- g) **The unit price of residential placements has reduced but the number of placements has increased.**
- h) **New cost centres have been created to monitor spend on alternative provision.** This allows for better monitoring of spend in this area from April 2021. New guidance is also being developed in this area.
- i) **The number of supported internships has significantly reduced as a result of Covid-19.** This has had a significant impact on the financial forecast.
- j) **The project group for school top-up funding is progressing and considering different funding models to trial.**

## **5. Next steps**

- 5.1 As noted previously, fuller investigation of precisely why overall spend has increased above forecast whilst a number of factors should lead to reduced spend and better sustainability. This is schedule to take place during the summer term along with an updated long range forecast.

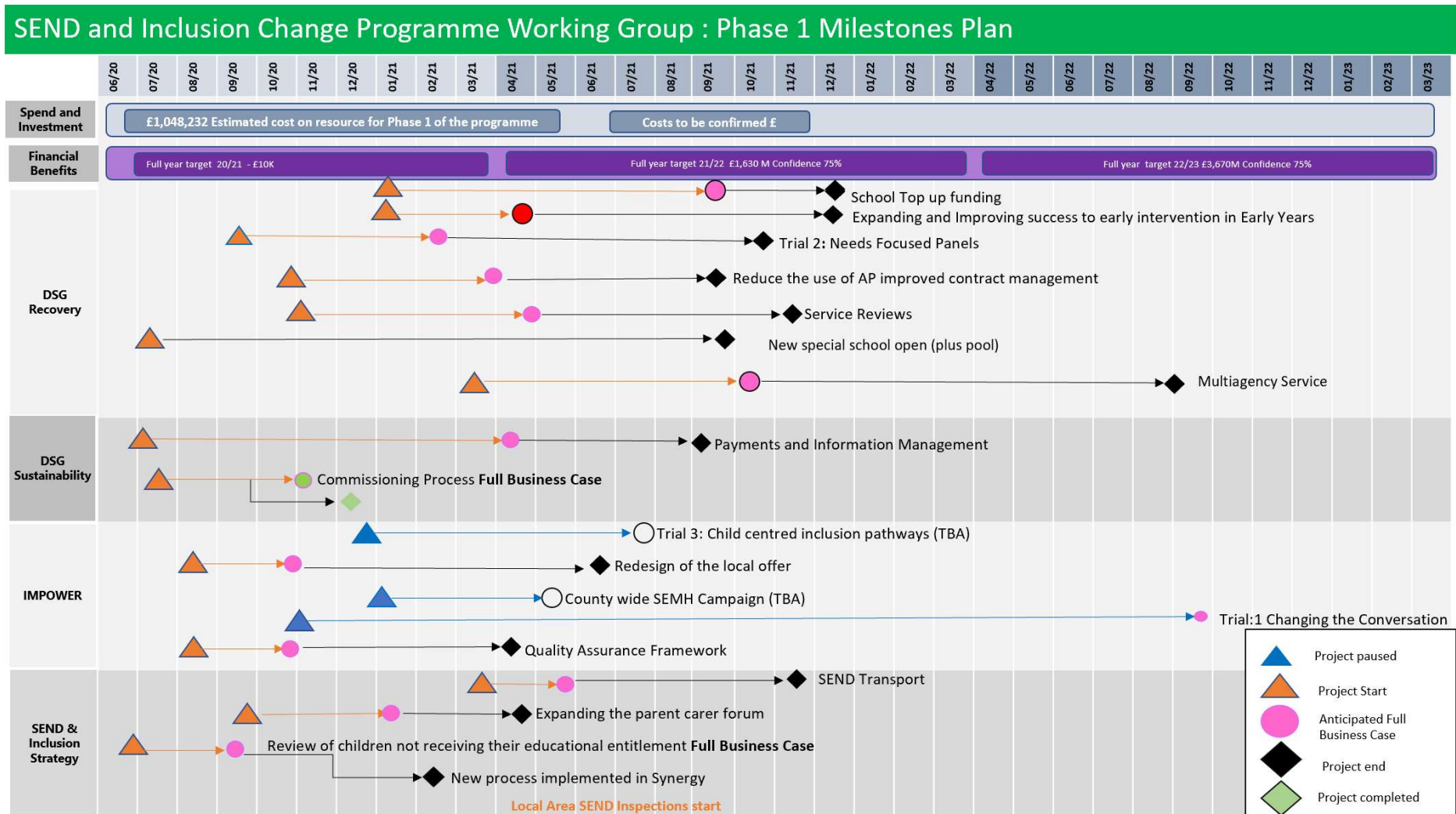
### **Ross Caws**

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## Appendix 1: Update on active projects & Phase 1 timeline



## Appendix 2: See SEN2 Benchmarking data

## Appendix 3: Update on projects in DSG Recovery Plan and DSG Sustainability Plan

### DSG Recovery Plan

1	<b>Project:</b>	<b>Resourced Provision - full utilisation and increased capacity</b>	
	<b>Phase:</b>	2	
	<b>Project status:</b>	Project Proposal Document (Business as usual still active)	
	<b>Estimated cost avoidance:</b>	Cost avoidance through placements in state-funded resourced provision rather than state-funded specialist provision.	
		<b>Year (£'000)</b>	<b>Cumulative (£'000)</b>
	2020/21	£148	£148
	2021/22	£358	£506
	<b>Financial Assumptions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numbers in commissioned resourced provision will increase by a total of 68 places, this is split into years below:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 by 2020/21</li> <li>31 by 2021/22</li> </ul> </li> <li>Assumption that each placement in a resourced provision will avoid a placement in a specialist setting.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Finance monitoring:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service reporting: Reduction against forecast spend on state funded special schools (Cost centre HC606)</li> <li>Service reporting: Increase spend in resourced provision (Cost centre HC610)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Activity Progress:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project group for next phase of resourced provision in place</li> <li>80 learners now placed in resourced provision (10 more than beginning of the year). However still an under-utilisation (72%) as 111 places available. 16 further places being commissioned from September 2021.</li> </ul>	

2	<b>Project:</b>	New special school (The Warwickshire Academy) and utilisation of available special school places (Venture Academy and Evergreen secondary)	
	<b>Phase:</b>	1	
	<b>Project status:</b>	Live- implementation (from January 2020)	
	<b>Estimated cost avoidance: :</b>	Cost avoidance through placements in state-funded specialist education rather than independent specialist provision (ISP).	
		<b>Year (£'000)</b>	<b>Cumulative (£'000)</b>
	2020/21	£0	£0
	2021/22	£850	£850
	<b>Financial Assumptions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost avoidance in ISP through increased placements in local specialist provision (saving between £20,322 and £36,047 depending on placement)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Finance monitoring:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service reporting: Reduction against forecast spend on ISP (Cost centre HC607)</li> <li>Service reporting: Increase spend in state funded special schools (Cost centre HC606)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Activity Progress:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall numbers of learners with EHCPs at school age(Reception to Year 11) in ISP is 224. This is lower than same time last year, which was 228.</li> <li>Venture is up to commissioned number for 2020/21 (35). 7 additional places commissioned for September (the forecast was for 3 additional places).</li> <li>Evergreen has already increased its commissioned number up to 268. This is an increase of 19 places since new school was constituted (the forecast was for 15 additional places).</li> <li>Warwickshire Academy is now scheduled to open in January 2022. This will delay the impact of new places being created at the school.</li> </ul>	

<b>3</b>	<b>Project:</b>	<b>Trial 2: Need-focussed panels / Aligning growth with statistical neighbours</b>	
	<b>Phase:</b>	1	
	<b>Project status:</b>	Developing business case (provisionally agreed by Programme Board)	
	<b>Estimated cost avoidance:</b>	<p>Cost avoidance reducing the growth rate of EHC plans, following changes to guidance and decision-making panels</p> <p>Decision-making by panels, based on refreshed guidance, should also lead to more children with EHC plans being supported with appropriate packages in mainstream settings.</p>	
		<b>Year (£'000)</b>	<b>Cumulative (£'000)</b>
	2020/21	£0	£0
	2021/22	£279	£279
	<b>Financial Assumptions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The percentage growth in EHC plans will reduce from 18% in 2019/20 to 15% in 2020/21 (Net increase of 77 EHC plans issued)</li> <li>10% in 2021/22 (Net increase of 58 EHC plans issued)</li> <li>That the reduction in EHC plans issued against as-is growth forecast will lead to cost avoidance</li> </ul>	
	<b>Finance monitoring:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service reporting: Not identifiable from one single cost centre</li> </ul>	
	<b>Activity Progress:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New panels to start from 1 April 2021, but direction of travel to promote inclusion has been set.</li> <li>Historical data</li> <li>2018/19 financial year 463 new EHC plans issued (19% more than previous year)</li> <li>2019/20 544 financial year new EHC plans issued (17% more than previous year)</li> <li>2020/21 499 new EHC plans issued plus 18 EHC plans due (27 fewer, 5% less than previous year; forecast within the change programme was for 621 new EHC plans to be issued, 15% increase)</li> </ul>	

4	<b>Project:</b>	<b>Improve timeliness of EHC plans in early years</b>	
	<b>Phase:</b>	1	
	<b>Project status:</b>	Developing business case	
	<b>Estimated cost avoidance:</b>	Initial cost increase with greater packages of support for some children aged 0-4. However, long term it is expected to see fewer children with EHC plans being admitted into reception year at special school, as they will be placed at mainstream schools.	
		<b>Year (£'000)</b>	<b>Cumulative (£'000)</b>
	2020/21	(£11)	(£11)
	2021/22	(£200)	(£211)
	<b>Financial Assumptions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numbers of children with EHC plans aged 0-4 to increase</li> <li>Numbers in reception year in special schools reduce by 20% and transfer to mainstream schools.</li> <li>Assumption that each placement in a mainstream provision will on average avoid a placement in state-funded special school at an annual cost avoidance of £0.5k in 2020/21 and £0.1K in 2021/22 (this figure will change year on year due to transitions, growth and inflation)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Finance monitoring:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service reporting: Reduction against forecast spend on state-funded special schools (Cost centre HC606)</li> <li>Service reporting: Increase spend in mainstream schools (Cost centre HC607)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Activity Progress:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project not yet in implementation</li> <li>3 EHC plan aged 0-3 (Nursery 1); 75 EHC plans aged 3-4 (Nursery 2)</li> </ul>	

5	<b>Project:</b>	Reducing the use of alternative provision	
	<b>Phase:</b>	1	
	<b>Project status:</b>	Developing business case	
	<b>Estimated cost avoidance:</b>	Reducing costs of alternative provision through appropriate use of alternative provision placements and managing the costs of individual placements through improved commissioning	
		<b>Year (£'000)</b>	<b>Cumulative (£'000)</b>
		2020/21 £0	£0
		2021/22 £730	£730
	<b>Financial Assumptions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numbers of children with EHC plans aged 0-4 to increase 1 in 5 pupils placed in alternative provision to return to mainstream provision. This is a reduction of 20%, assuming that 80% are not on roll.</li> <li>Figures based on number of payments to providers as opposed to synergy. Therefore, activity monitoring must be improved.</li> <li>Assumption that each placement in a mainstream provision will be an enhanced package, but less expensive than alternative provision.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Finance monitoring:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service reporting: Reduction against forecast spend on alternative provision (Cost centres HD409 &amp; HD411)</li> <li>Service reporting: Increase spend in mainstream schools (Cost centre HC605)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Activity Progress:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An underspend is forecast Alternative Provision for learners without EHC plans</li> <li>A new cost centre (HD411) is being put in place for 2021/22 solely for the use of Alternative Provision for learners with EHC plans (currently placements are resourced from a range of cost centres)</li> <li>To compare figures, this must be based on financial figures and this cannot be done until Synergy module implemented</li> <li>From the work on the 'Not on a school roll' project, a number of children are now back on a school roll. The alternative provision census submitted in February 2021 has reduced from 514 to 390 (reduction of 124 across all ages, including ISP).</li> </ul>	

6	<b>Project:</b>	Reducing spend on residential placements by limiting price increase to 1%	
	<b>Phase:</b>	Not applicable	
	<b>Project status:</b>	Business as usual task	
	<b>Estimated cost avoidance:</b>	Cost avoidance through limiting residential ISP cost increases to 1% in accordance with ISP framework contract	
		<b>Year (£'000)</b>	<b>Cumulative (£'000)</b>
	2020/21	£32	£32
	2021/22	£64	£96
	<b>Financial Assumptions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That unit costs will be limited to 1% inflation (in line with local framework)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Finance monitoring:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service reporting: Reported as part of ISP expenditure (Cost centre HC607)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Activity Progress:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numbers in residential settings have increased from 31 to 39</li> <li>Whilst the unit cost for residential placements has decreased from £79k to £69k, activity has increased, resulting in increased overall spend of £100k</li> </ul>	

<b>7</b>	<b>Project:</b>	<b>Supported internships</b>	
	<b>Phase:</b>	2	
	<b>Project status:</b>	Not started	
	<b>Estimated cost avoidance:</b>	Cost avoidance through young people with EHC plans securing full time employment rather than continuing education.	
		<b>Year (£'000)</b>	<b>Cumulative (£'000)</b>
	2020/21	£486	£486
	2021/22	£627	£1,113
	<b>Financial Assumptions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numbers of young people on supported internships to increase each year to 60 in 2020/21, 80 in 2021/22 and 100 thereafter.</li> <li>Percentage of young people on supported internships securing employment is 75%. As the number of young people on supported internships increases the number of young people securing employment will also increase.</li> <li>Assumption that each successful supported internship leads to a ceased EHC plan with an average annual cost avoidance</li> <li>Savings are multiplied based on post-16 pathways</li> </ul>	
	<b>Finance monitoring:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service reporting: Reduction against forecast spend on post-16 and special schools (Cost centres HD112 and HC606)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Relevant Performance monitoring:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of learners on supported internships has reduced to 20, following the impact of the pandemic on employers, particularly in the hospitality sector; forecasts to be revised.</li> </ul>	

8	<b>Project:</b>	<b>Value for money service reviews</b>
	<b>Phase:</b>	1
	<b>Project status:</b>	Developing business case
	<b>Estimated cost avoidance:</b>	Reviews will identify further savings or cost avoidance through different ways of working.
	2020/21	<i>To be confirmed following review</i>
	2021/22	<i>To be confirmed following review</i>
	<b>Financial Assumptions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviews will identify further savings or cost avoidance</li> </ul>
	<b>Finance monitoring:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Dependent on outcomes of reviews – <b>but should include monitoring of the cost drivers of the spend in question</b></i></li> </ul>
	<b>Activity Progress:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Six reviews to take place; four reviews have completed, with two remaining to report by July 2021</li> <li>Decisions to be taken once all reviews completed</li> </ul>

### DSG Sustainability Plan

<b>Project:</b>	<b>Implementation of the SEND finance module in Synergy</b>
<b>Phase:</b>	1
<b>Project status:</b>	Developing Business Case
<b>Estimated cost avoidance:</b>	None. This project will enable better financial reporting and improved forecasting.
<b>Activity Progress:</b>	Delayed due to ongoing discussion with supplier as to how to meet the identified system requirements

<b>Project:</b>	<b>Schools Top-up Funding</b>
<b>Phase:</b>	1 (brought forward)
<b>Project cohort:</b>	Developing Business Case
<b>Estimated cost avoidance:</b>	No savings currently forecast – assume cost neutral. Modelling to take place on options. Focus on moving resources upstream.
<b>Activity Progress:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As-is mapping completed and alternative funding models being researched</li> </ul>

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## Appendix 2: SEN2 Survey data 2021

On the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the Department for Education (DfE) released statistics and analysis on statements of special educational needs (SEN) and education, health and care (EHC) plans in England:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans>

The information collected via the annual SEN2 survey provides the major source of data collected on children and young people with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. It includes all children and young people aged 0-25 years regardless of educational setting.

Headlines	Warwickshire	Statistical Neighbours	West Midlands	National
<b>Number of EHC Plans<sup>1</sup></b>				
2021	4,563	4,656	46,127	430,697
2020	4,299	4,139	41,897	390,109
Percentage increase on last year	+6.1%	+12.5%	+10.1%	+10.4%
SN Rank (out of 11 – based on percentage increase)	5th	-	-	-
<b>EHC plans issued within 20 weeks<sup>2,3</sup></b>				
2020	90.0%	38.8%	50.0%	58.0%
2019	88.5%	53.5%	53.7%	60.4%
Difference from previous year	+1.5%	-14.7%	-3.7%	-2.4%
SN Rank (out of 11)	2nd	-	-	-
<b>Placements in independent specialist Provision (ISP)</b>				
2021	5.5%	5.0%	4.4%	5.0%
2020	6.1%	4.8%	4.2%	5.0%
Difference from previous year	-0.6%	+0.2%	+0.2%	0.0%
SN Rank (out of 11)	6th	-	-	-
<b>Personal budgets<sup>2</sup></b>				
2020	6.9%	1.0%	3.4%	5.2%
2019	7.3%	1.1%	3.7%	5.2%
Difference from previous year	-0.4%	-0.1%	-0.3%	0.0%
SN Rank (out of 11)	2nd	-	-	-

1 – Source: SEN2 – Includes all children and young people 0-25 years

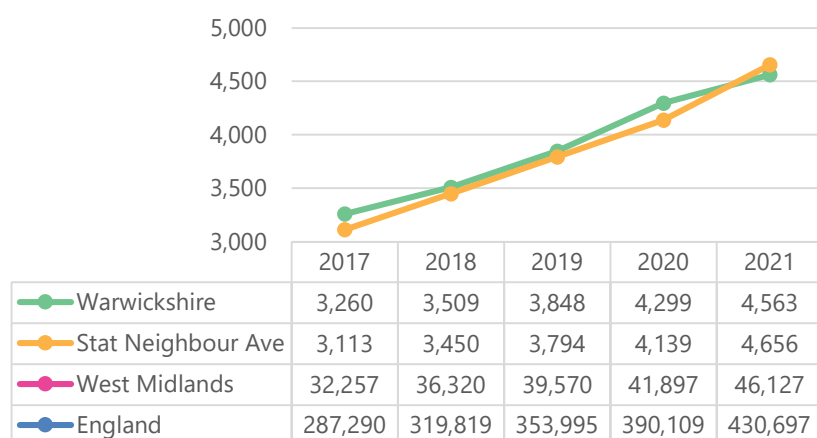
2 – Latest calendar year 2020

3 – Excluding Exceptions

SN = Statistical Neighbours

## 1.0 Number of Statements and EHC Plans

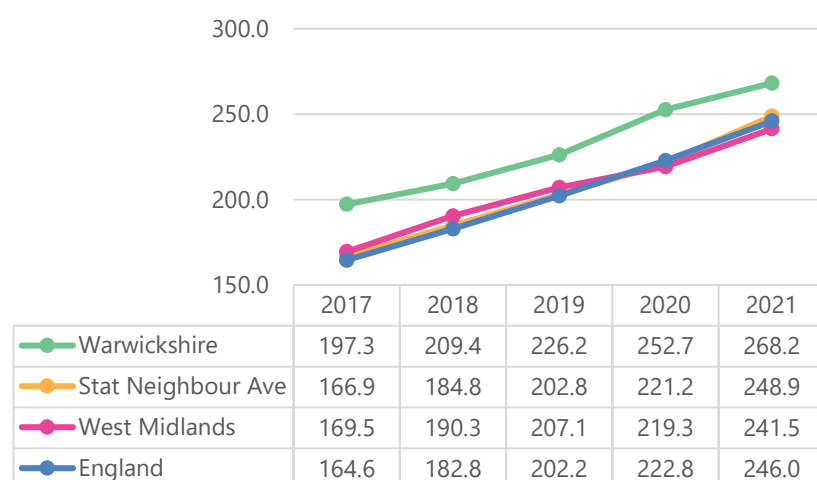
All children and young people with an EHCP (SEN2)



Warwickshire reported **4,563** live EHC plans in January 2021, an increase of 264 compared to the total number of EHC plans from the previous year.

This makes Warwickshire the 22nd largest local authority out of 151 in terms of the number of current EHC plans. Two places lower than in 2020.

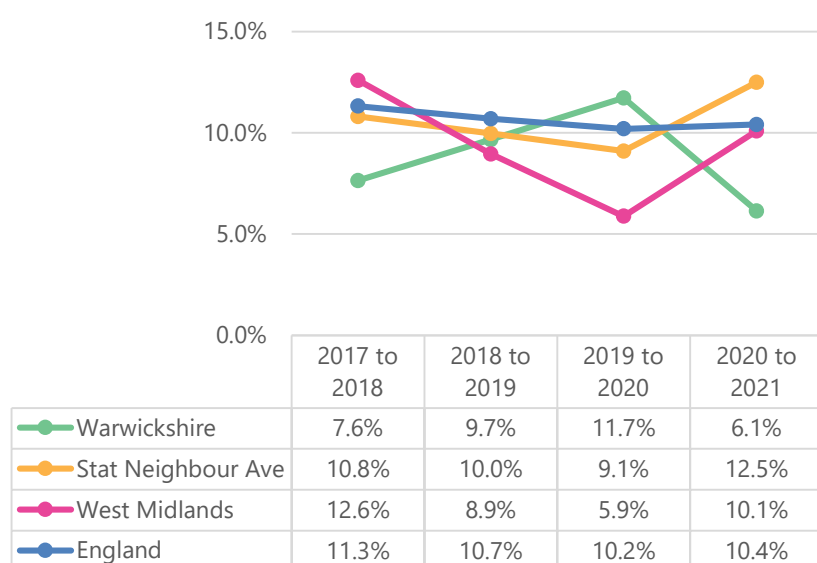
Number of EHCPs per 10,000 of the population aged under 25



The number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) issued, as a proportion of the 0-25 population continues to increase in Warwickshire, following the same trend nationally, although rates for the County have been consistently above national, statistical neighbour and West Midland rates since 2017.

4,563 plans are currently being maintained compared to 3,260 in 2017 which equates to a 40% increase.

Percentage change in the number of all EHCPs

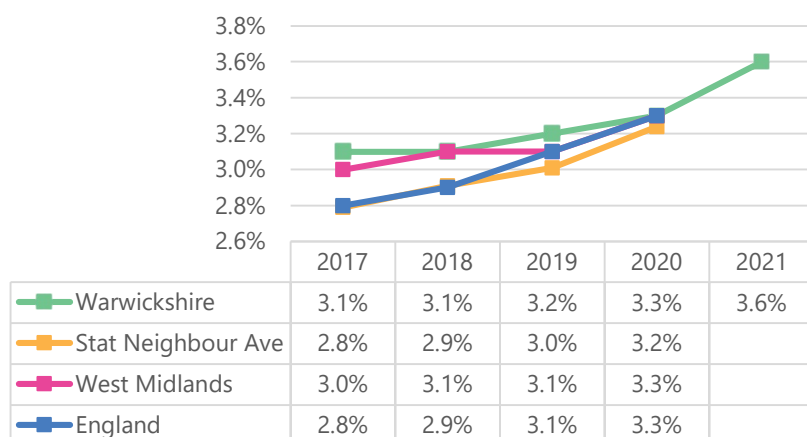


### Growth in total number of plans:

In the past year there has been a 10.4% increase nationally in the total number of EHC plans compared to the total number of EHC plans in the previous year.

Since 2017, the number of EHCPs issued in Warwickshire has increased and the percentage yearly change showed a steady increase. However, 2021 data indicates that the growth in EHCPs is slowing in Warwickshire with a 6.1% increase in numbers this year compared to a 11.7% increase the previous year.

School Age Children with an EHCP (school census)

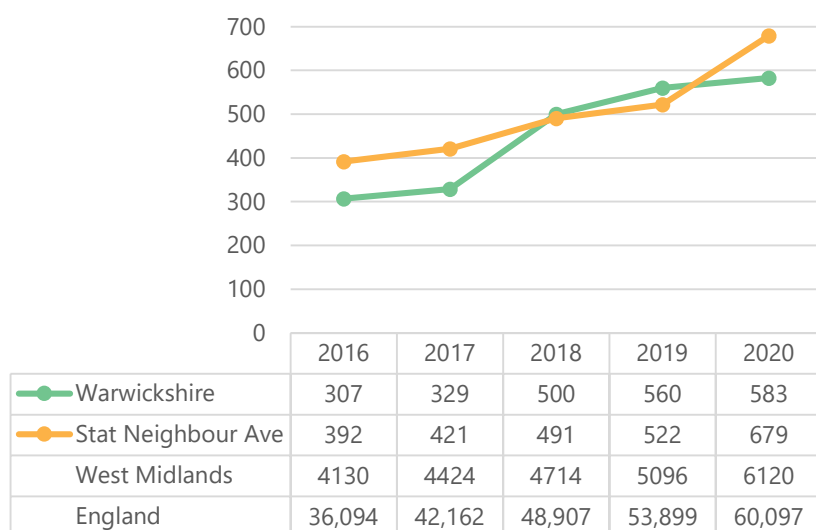


2021 school census data shows Warwickshire to be maintaining plans for 3.6% of its state-funded school population.

Current national data is not yet available, however 2020 data shows that Warwickshire was very much in line compared to the proportion of children with plans in state-funded schools nationally, across the West Midlands and Warwickshire's statistical neighbours.

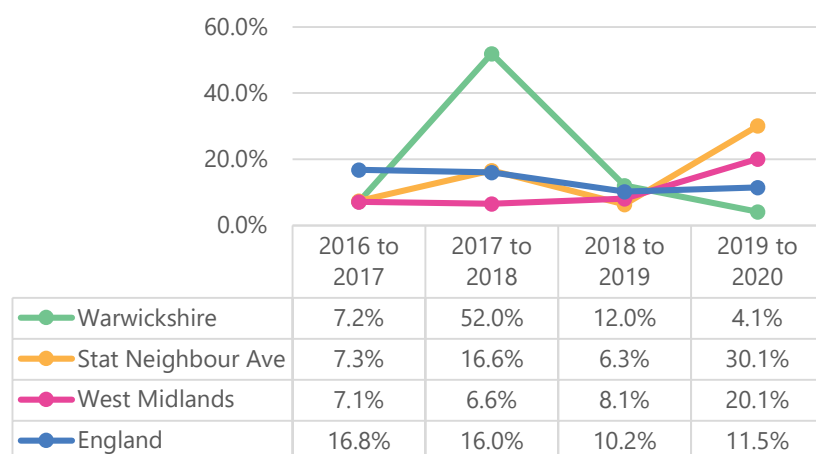
### 1.1 Newly issued statements and EHC Plans in the calendar year

Newly issued statements and EHCPs during the calendar year



Warwickshire reported **583** newly issued EHC plans during the 2019/20 calendar year, an increase of **23** compared to the previous year. Whilst the number of new plans being issued in Warwickshire has slowed, this trend is contrary to that nationally, across the West Midlands and among Warwickshire's statistical neighbours where larger numbers of new plans are being issued. The above places Warwickshire 6<sup>th</sup> among its statistical neighbours and 26<sup>th</sup> nationally in terms of the number of new plans issued.

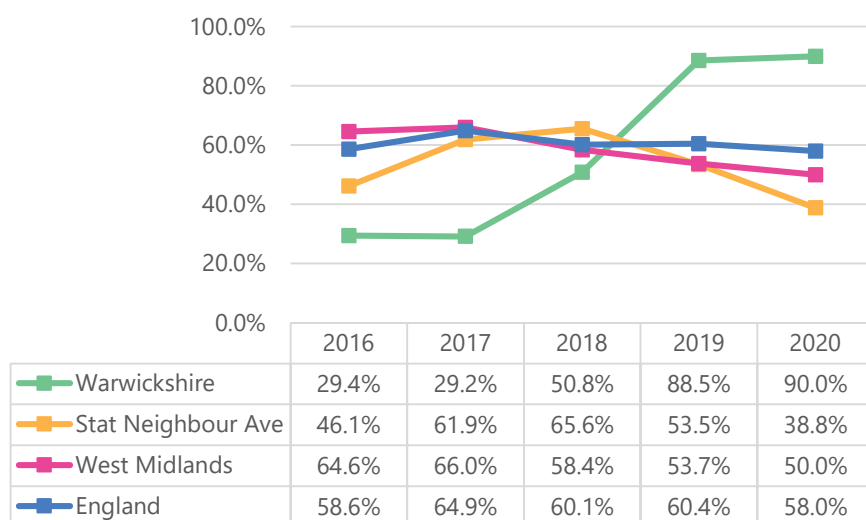
Percentage change rate in the number of newly issued statements and EHCPs (calendar year)



In the past calendar year, Warwickshire has experienced a slowdown in the rate of issuing of new plans, down from 12% to 4.1%. Trends across other comparators are increasing.

## 2.0 EHC plans issued within 20 weeks

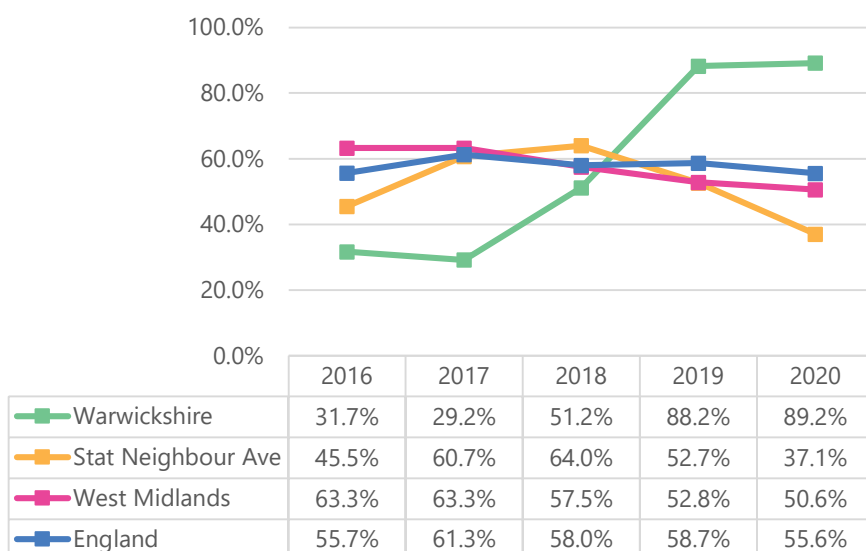
Rate of EHC plans excluding exceptions issued within 20 weeks (calendar year)



Warwickshire issued **90.0%** of EHC plans within 20 weeks of referral, excluding exceptions (e.g. referrals received during the summer holidays), a positive increase of 1.5% compared to the previous calendar year.

This contrasts with our statistical neighbours, who at 38.8% experienced a fall again in plans being issued within the timeframe. Nationally there was also a slight decrease of 2.4%. This places Warwickshire 30th out of 151 Local Authorities.

Rate of EHC plans including exceptions issued within 20 weeks (calendar year)



For the same measure including exceptions, Warwickshire issued **89.2%** of EHC plans within 20 weeks, an increase of 1% on the previous calendar year.

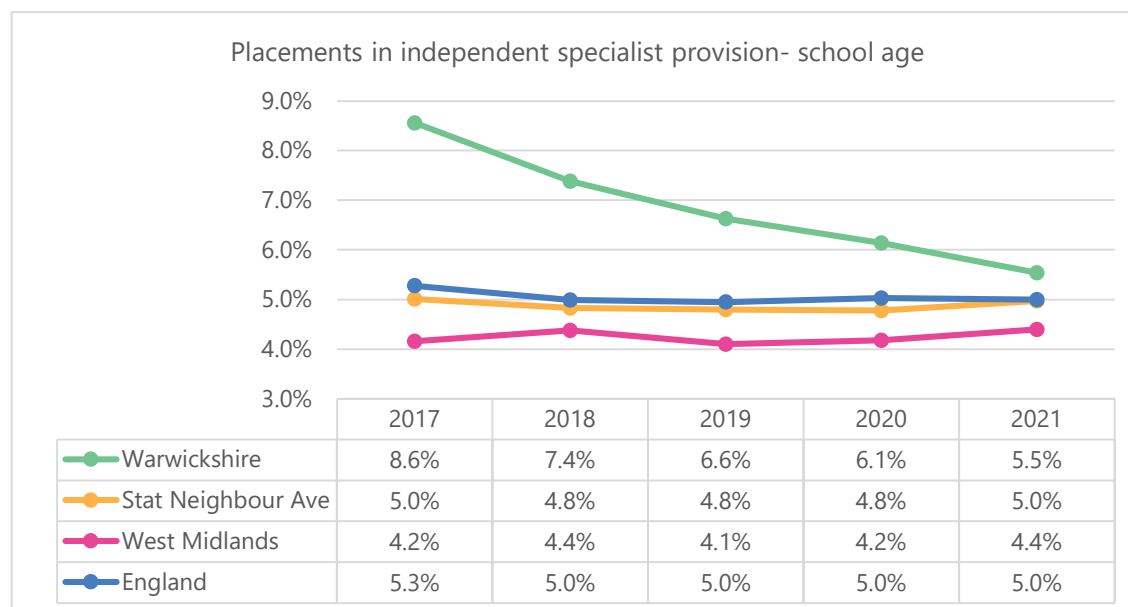
This compares to our statistical neighbours at 37.1% and a national average of 55.6%.

This places Warwickshire 2<sup>nd</sup> out of its 10 statistical neighbours, and 24th nationally.

### 3.0 Placements in independent specialist provision- school age

Of Warwickshire's school age population with an EHC Plan, **5.5%** were placed in independent specialist provision including independent and non-maintained special schools. This is a decrease compared to last year's figure of 6.1%, continuing the downward trend over the past 5 years.

Warwickshire has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of ISP placements compared to its Statistical Neighbours (average of 5.0%) and the 60<sup>th</sup> highest proportion nationally (average of 5.0%).

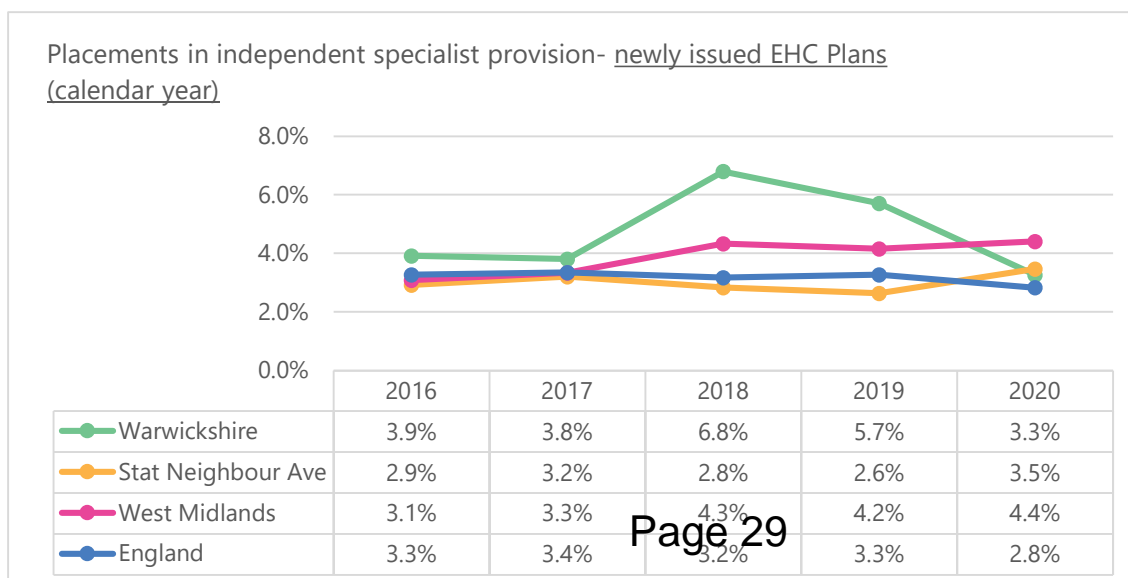


Please see the Appendix (page 7) below for a breakdown of the number and percentage of EHCP children and young people and the placements they are in.

### 3.1 Placements in independent specialist provision- newly issued EHC Plans

Focusing solely on EHC plans that were newly issued during the 2020 calendar year the percentage of Warwickshire children that were placed in ISP provision was **3.3%** (equating to 19 children out of 583).

Compared to previous years, this brings Warwickshire's proportion more in line with the national figure and that of our statistical neighbours. It is now below the West Midlands average by over one percentage point. Nationally the average is 2.8%, placing Warwickshire 47<sup>th</sup> out of 151 Local Authorities.

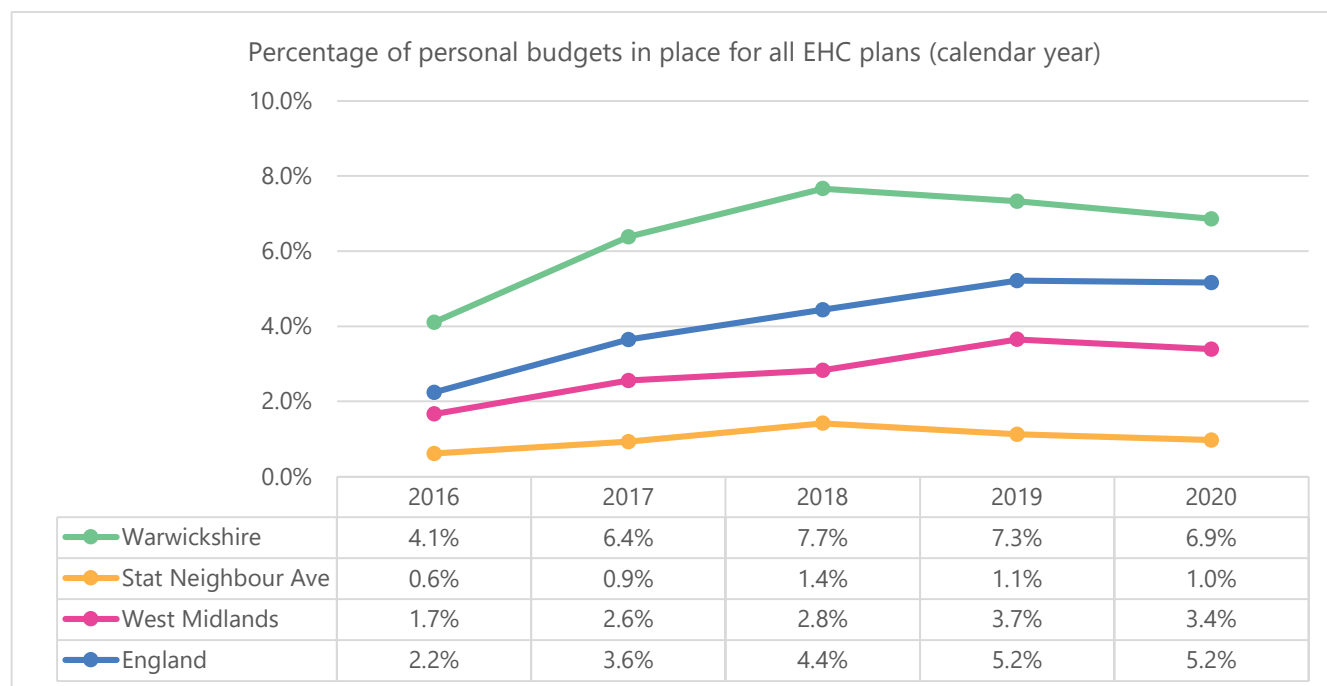


#### 4.0 Personal budgets for education

Nationally, the percentage of EHC Plans with a personal budget attached has remained the same at 5.2%. This compares to **6.9%** in Warwickshire (slightly down on the previous year's percentage of 7.3%). Across our statistical neighbours, use of personal budgets is very variable and generally drastically lower, the average proportion falling from 1.1% to 1.0% this year. Our ranking for personal budgets compared to our statistical neighbours is 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Warrington.

In Warwickshire, from **313** personal budgets taken up for EHC plans issued or reviewed in the calendar year 2020, the majority, **300 (95.8%)** were for direct payments for **Social Care, 13 (4.2%)** were for direct payments for an integrated payment, 0 for Education and 0 for Health.

In line with Warwickshire, nationally, the majority of personal budgets were for Social Care (81.0%), followed by Organised arrangements at 11.6%, Education at 7.3%, Integrated payments at 2.7% and Health at 2.2%.











































## Appendix - Aggregated placement data using published SEN2 data categories

## NUMBERS

Year	Area Name	Number of children with an EHCP	Mainstream	Special	ISP - School Age	ISP - Post 16	AP/PRU	FE	Other
2017	England	283240	126349	103568	14942	3019	2209	27763	5390
	West Midlands	31757	12934	13980	1322	398	123	2481	519
	Statistical Neighbours	3064	1355	1229	154	25	12	234	56
	Warwickshire	3257	1493	1217	279	12	0	215	41
2018	England	310566	130524	111387	15483	4270	2330	40264	6308
	West Midlands	35687	12655	15786	1564	819	166	3972	725
	Statistical Neighbours	3389	1420	1310	164	24	17	395	59
	Warwickshire	3492	1333	1407	259	33	0	362	98
2019	England	353995	141005	118999	17532	4956	2731	49959	18813
	West Midlands	39570	12871	16338	1624	1116	168	5361	2092
	Statistical Neighbours	3794	1534	1364	182	39	15	478	182
	Warwickshire	3848	1283	1454	255	47	0	617	192
2020	England	390109	154510	125398	19641	6064	3181	56181	25134
	West Midlands	41897	13541	17023	1750	1093	192	5828	2470
	Statistical Neighbours	4140	1658	1423	198	52	16	551	243
	Warwickshire	4299	1275	1486	264	53	0	814	407
2021	England	430697	174869	132131	21746	6777	3239	62245	29690
	West Midlands	46127	15154	17548	2030	1176	275	6188	3756
	Statistical Neighbours	4656	1891	1495	231	46	15	627	351
	Warwickshire	4563	1430	1544	253	52	0	790	494

## PERCENTAGES

Year	Area Name	Number of children with an EHCP	Mainstream	Special	ISP - School Age	ISP - Post 16	AP/PRU	FE	Other
2017	England	283240	 44.6%	 36.6%	 5.3%	 1.1%	 0.8%	 9.8%	 1.9%
	West Midlands	31757	 40.7%	 44.0%	 4.2%	 1.3%	 0.4%	 7.8%	 1.6%
	Statistical Neighbours	3064	 44.2%	 40.1%	 5.0%	 0.8%	 0.4%	 7.6%	 1.8%
	Warwickshire	3257	 45.8%	 37.4%	 8.6%	 0.4%	 0.0%	 6.6%	 1.3%
2018	England	310566	 42.0%	 35.9%	 5.0%	 1.4%	 0.8%	 13.0%	 2.0%
	West Midlands	35687	 35.5%	 44.2%	 4.4%	 2.3%	 0.5%	 11.1%	 2.0%
	Statistical Neighbours	3389	 41.9%	 38.7%	 4.8%	 0.7%	 0.5%	 11.7%	 1.7%
	Warwickshire	3492	 38.2%	 40.3%	 7.4%	 0.9%	 0.0%	 10.4%	 2.8%
2019	England	353995	 39.8%	 33.6%	 5.0%	 1.4%	 0.8%	 14.1%	 5.3%
	West Midlands	39570	 32.5%	 41.3%	 4.1%	 2.8%	 0.4%	 13.5%	 5.3%
	Statistical Neighbours	3794	 40.4%	 36.0%	 4.8%	 1.0%	 0.4%	 12.6%	 4.8%
	Warwickshire	3848	 33.3%	 37.8%	 6.6%	 1.2%	 0.0%	 16.0%	 5.0%
2020	England	390109	 39.6%	 32.1%	 5.0%	 1.6%	 0.8%	 14.4%	 6.4%
	West Midlands	41897	 32.3%	 40.6%	 4.2%	 2.6%	 0.5%	 13.9%	 5.9%
	Statistical Neighbours	4140	 40.0%	 34.4%	 4.8%	 1.3%	 0.4%	 13.3%	 5.9%
	Warwickshire	4299	 29.7%	 34.6%	 6.1%	 1.2%	 0.0%	 18.9%	 9.5%
2021	England	430697	 40.6%	 30.7%	 5.0%	 1.6%	 0.8%	 14.5%	 6.9%
	West Midlands	46127	 32.9%	 38.0%	 4.4%	 2.5%	 0.6%	 13.4%	 8.1%
	Statistical Neighbours	4656	 40.6%	 32.1%	 5.0%	 1.0%	 0.3%	 13.5%	 7.5%
	Warwickshire	4563	 31.3%	 33.8%	 5.5%	 1.1%	 0.0%	 17.3%	 10.8%

**Local Categories created from SEN2 published data:**

AP	Alternative Provision (AP)/Pupil Referral Unit (PRU): LA maintained
AP	AP/PRU: academy
AP	AP/PRU: free school
FE	Post 16: general FE and tertiary colleges/HE
FE	Post 16: other FE
ISP - School Age	Special school: non-maintained and Special school: independent special schools
ISP - Post16	Post 16: Specialist post-16 Institutions
Mainstream	Mainstream school: LA maintained (including foundation schools)
Mainstream	Mainstream school: LA maintained (SEN Unit)
Mainstream	Mainstream school: LA maintained (resourced provision)

Mainstream	Mainstream school: academy
Mainstream	Mainstream school: academy (SEN Unit)
Mainstream	Mainstream school: academy (resourced provision)
Mainstream	Mainstream school: free school
Mainstream	Mainstream school: free school (SEN Unit)
Mainstream	Mainstream school: free school (resourced provision)
Mainstream	Mainstream school: independent school
Mainstream	Hospital schools (including foundation schools)
Mainstream	Post 16: sixth form college
Other	Non-maintained early years settings in the private and voluntary sector
Special	Special school: LA maintained (including foundation schools)
Special	Special school: academy/free

*Warwickshire's statistical neighbours are:*

*Cheshire West and Chester, Worcestershire, Central Bedfordshire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Warrington, Cheshire East, Essex, Hampshire, North Somerset*

*West Midlands Local Authorities are: Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Herefordshire, Sandwell, Shropshire, Solihull, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire*

Produced by Business Intelligence, [businessintelligence@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:businessintelligence@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Commissioning Support Unit, Resources Directorate

Julie Robottom

18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (v2)

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## Item 6

## Schools Forum – Forward Plan 2021-22

*The table below contains provisional items for the Schools Forum for the next year. This table will be updated and reported to each meeting of the Forum.*

Date	For Decision	For Information / Comment
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b> <b>2pm to 5pm</b> <b>Microsoft Teams</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>De-delegation &amp; Disapplications Consultation Timetable 2022-23</li> <li>Section 48 – Scheme for Financing Schools (subject to any ESFA guidance changes)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DSG 2020-21 Outturn</li> <li>DSG Recovery Plan 2021-22</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b> <b>2pm to 5pm</b> <b>Venue to be confirmed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2022-23 National Funding Formula (year 5) Timetable and consultation</li> <li>De-delegation 2022-23</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DSG 2021-22 Forecast</li> <li>DSG Recover Plan Monitoring</li> <li>Update on Early Years 30 hours free entitlement to sufficiency of places</li> <li>New Free Schools</li> <li>Admissions Further Update</li> <li>Contracts</li> </ul>
<b>Provisional</b> <b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> <b>2pm to 3pm</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To discuss any potential disapplications</li> </ul>	
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b> <b>2pm to 5pm</b> <b>Venue to be confirmed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2022-23 National Funding Formula</li> <li>2022-23 Early Years Funding Formula</li> <li>2022-23 Pupil Growth Fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DSG 2021-22 Forecast</li> <li>DSG Recover Plan Monitoring</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b> <b>2pm to 5pm</b> <b>Venue to be confirmed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DSG 2022-23 Budget proposal</li> <li>Section 48 – Scheme for Financing Schools (subject to any ESFA guidance changes)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DSG 2021-22 Forecast</li> <li>DSG Recover Plan Monitoring</li> <li>Contracts</li> </ul>
<b>Items where a date is still to be confirmed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of pupils eligible for free school meals – requires a council policy change and will be bought back on a date to be confirmed.</li> </ul>



## Item 7

### Schools Forum

**24 June 2021**

#### **Chair's Business – Conduct of Future Meetings**

This report relates to all schools forum representatives and is for discussion and approval

#### **Recommendation**

The Schools forum is recommended to:

1. Agree an approach to how future schools forum meetings should be conducted.

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 With the outbreak on Covid-19 last year the schools forum operational and good practice guide was amended in March 2020 to allow for schools forum to be conducted remotely until March 2021.
- 1.2 In March 2021 the guide was again updated and paragraph 7 now states:

“The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2021 amended The Schools Forums (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 to make permanent provisions to enable schools forums meetings to be held remotely. This includes (but is not limited to) telephone conferencing, video conferencing, live webcast, and live interactive streaming. Where a schools forum decides to hold a public meeting by remote means only, the forum should provide support or make alternative arrangements so that any interested parties who do not have telephone or online access can attend virtual meetings”
- 1.3 Paragraph 63 goes on to say:

“Local authorities should ensure that their schools forum clerk’s contact details are published on their website and that it is clear to interested parties how they can attend the meeting remotely”

- 1.4 Since June 2020 schools forum has been conducted using Microsoft Teams with a live stream of the meeting available on You Tube and is in line with how council meeting have been conducted.

## **2. Future Meetings**

- 2.1 This report seeks the view of schools forum members on how future meeting are conducted and will be supported by the Local Authority in line with schools forum wishes.
- 2.2 The options are:
- Continue with virtual meetings
  - Return to meetings being held in a venue in Warwick
  - A combination of the 2 options
- 2.3 Neighbouring authorities have been approached to see how they tend to conduct future meetings with the majority saying they will continue with virtual meetings with some saying they may have a face to face meeting once a year, for example, when elections take place for a Chair and Vice Chair.
- 2.4 If any future Schools forum meetings are held virtually we cannot continue to provide a live YouTube link as this is no longer supported by our IT Service and there is no budget to use an external organisation to facilitate this.
- 2.5 Therefore if a member of the public contacts the Clerk in advance of the meeting wanting to attend we will send them a Teams invite or a link to join by phone. If this is not suitable then we will provide a link either in Shire Hall or at their nearest library.
- 2.6 It is worth noting that a member of the public has not attended a schools forum meeting in the last 4 years and possibly much longer.
- 2.7 If any meetings are conducted on Microsoft Teams these will recorded it order to assist with producing the voting and actions summary of the meeting.

**Phil Johnson and Nicci Burton**

Chair and Vice Chair of Schools Forum