

Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday 26 April 2023
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Committee Room 2, Shire Hall, Warwick

Membership

Councillor Yousef Dahmash (Chair)
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Jo Barker
Councillor Brett Beetham
Councillor Barbara Brown
Councillor Peter Gilbert
Councillor Brian Hammersley
Councillor Marian Humphreys
Councillor Justin Kerridge
Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince

Items on the agenda: -

1. General

(1) Apologies

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5 - 12

Minutes from the meeting held on the 14th of February 2023.

2. Public Speaking

3. Question Time

(1) Questions to Cabinet Portfolio Holders

Up to 30 minutes of the meeting are available for members of the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to put questions to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children & Families.

The work programme attached 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 Directors

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

4. Corporate Parenting Panel Update

Portfolio Holder for Children & Families is invited to provide an update on the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

To include an update from the Children in Care Council and other forums.

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 5. Quarter 3 Integrated Performance Report Quarter 2 2022/23 | 13 - 44 |
| Link to Power BI Platform | |
| 6. Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy progress report | 45 - 58 |
| 7. School Attendance Performance Report - 2021/2022 | 59 - 72 |
| 8. Work Programme | 73 - 76 |

Up to date work programme to be presented to the Committee.

Items from the Forward Plan relevant to the remit of the Committee to be noted.

9. Any Other Business

Member Development Sessions relevant to the committee -

- OFSTED - How schools are inspected – 27th April at 2pm
- Overview Session on Education Services – 17th May at 2pm
- Children & Families - a brief overview (including Corporate Parenting) – 7th June at 10am
- Education Services (SEND) – Session 3 – 27th June at 3pm

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on the 13th of June 2023 at 10am.

The meeting will be held at Shire Hall, Warwick.

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

Disclaimers

Webcasting and permission to be filmed

Please note that this meeting will be filmed for live broadcast on the internet and can be viewed online at warwickshire.public-i.tv. Generally, the public gallery is not filmed, but by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area you are consenting to being filmed. All recording will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

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. Any changes to matters registered or new matters that require to be registered must be notified to the Monitoring Officer as soon as practicable after they arise.

A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless they have a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if they have not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- 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 relevant to the agenda 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.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Any member or officer of the Council or any person attending this meeting must inform Democratic Services if within a week of the meeting they discover they have COVID-19 or have been in close proximity to anyone found to have COVID-19.

Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 14 February 2023

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Yousef Dahmash (Chair)
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Jo Barker
Councillor Brett Beetham
Councillor Peter Gilbert
Councillor Brian Hammersley
Councillor Marian Humphreys
Councillor Justin Kerridge
Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince

Officers

Nigel Minns, Strategic Director for People
Helen Barnsley, Senior Democratic Services Officer
John Coleman, Assistant Director - Children and Families
Chris Baird, Interim AD for Education
Sarah Tregaskis, Service Manager - Education Service Delivery
Becky Hale, Assistant Director - People

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Barbara Brown.

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8 November 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

There were no matters arising.

2. Public Speaking

None.

3. Question Time

(1) Questions to Cabinet Portfolio Holders

Following a question from Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Nigel Minns - Strategic Director (People Directorate), confirmed that the decision made by an academy trust in Nuneaton not to take over the running of the Nuneaton Academy was one that Warwickshire County Council officers were aware of but had not been pre-warned about. It was confirmed that there are now several options available and an update will be given to the committee as soon as officers are aware.

(2) Updates from Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Assistant Directors

Nigel Minns asked the committee to note that the Department for Education (DfE) had published their response to the independent review of children's social care. The DfE will pilot a series of responses over the next 18 months with the view to secure funding. There will be 12 pilots started using the new approach and these will be offered by invitation only. It was suggested to the committee that if Warwickshire County Council is approached and invited that they should accept. The new approaches are likely to be things that happen anyway and the pilots will be funded. It has been a significant review and the recommendations are positive. It was noted that the final response may differ slightly but as soon as a final version is available it will be shared with the committee.

4. Corporate Parenting Panel Update

Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties this item was cancelled. It will be on the agenda for the next meeting on the 26th of April 2023.

5. Council Plan 2022-2027 - Quarter 2 Performance Progress Report

The performance report was presented to the committee by John Coleman -Assistant Director - Children & Families and Chris Baird - Interim Assistant Director for Education Services.

Members were reminded that the new Power BI system that they have access to, shows a live and up to date performance dashboard that is relevant to this committee.

The following highlights were presented to the committee –

- The overall number of children that officers are working with has fallen.
- Officers are successfully working towards more early help support for children.
- The number of Children in Care has reduced. It was noted that this is a big change in the region and is bucking the national trend
- Uptake of placements for 2-year-olds is running at 91% which is an increase and a positive step.

- Placements for 3- & 4-year-olds has also increased

The committee noted that the following performance indicators are not on track –

- In relation to children receiving their 6–8-week health check, it was noted by the committee that there is still work to do in this area and more support is need for health visitors. It was confirmed that there is also a national issue of recruitment in this area.
- In relation to Early Years – the target is 97% and in Warwickshire it is consistently just under 96% but there has been some steady improvement of late. The Committee noted that reported figure is a yearly figure and not a monthly one.
- In relation to suicide rates it was confirmed that the figure is an annual one. There was an increase in young people taking their own life during the pandemic. There has been some improvement but it is representative of the mental health issues in young people. Warwickshire County Council officers continue to work closely with Coventry in relation to suicide prevention.

Following a question from Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince it was confirmed that while in some suicide cases the young person was not previously known to the service, there are always cases where they were known to officers. It was confirmed that there is always a child death investigation for each case which involves reviewing what happened and what can be learnt from it. The safeguarding partnership also review each case. Members of the committee noted that there is very rarely any pattern to the cases. Councillor Jerry Roodhouse raised concerns that the age of those who take their own life seems to be dropping and it was noted that as of the 14th of February 2023, there were 323 children to child protection plans.

Councillor Justin Kerridge asked for clarification in relation to the performance data in relation to SEND; some of the performance data in this report doesn't tally with the information provided with Item 8 of the agenda (Local Area SEND inspection Update). Chris Baird stated that the report in item 8 recognises that there have been improvements in the SEND services but the performance report highlights that there is still a range of issues that are not where officers would like them to be in terms of performance, despite the overall improvement across the service.

Councillor Roodhouse asked why some areas of the report, such as 'child accident prevention' was showing as "not being reported at this stage". Becky Hale - Chief Commissioning Officer (Health and Care) confirmed that she would look into this and report back to the committee but confirmed that joint work in the area is continuing with the NHS and is being actively worked on by council officers. Nigel Minns suggested that the area of reporting may have been stood down during the pandemic due to staffing capacity and will just need to be picked up again but confirmed it will be looked into and the committee updated.

Councillor Marian Humphries asked why, when the issue of health visitor recruitment had been discussed at a previous meeting, did it seem as if no progress had been made. John Coleman confirmed that positive collaboration is now in place and there are multi agencies working together to put a plan in place to resolve the issues.

6. Post 16 participation in Education, Employment and Training performance report 2022

Sarah Tregaskis - Service Manager - Education Services Trading, Development and Delivery presented the report which is an overview of the data for Warwickshire, in comparison with national figures and statistical neighbours.

It was confirmed that the term NEETS refers to young people who are not in education, employment or training. Once identified, officers will work to re-engage with them and help them to progress.

The term “not know” refers to young people whose status in relation to education, employment or training is not known to officers and in some cases, officers are unaware where a young person is because they do not want to engage

The following points were highlighted to the committee –

- Warwickshire’s proportion of young people participating in education and training is higher than that of England, the West Midlands and statistical neighbour average.
- Warwickshire maintained a high level of engagement with NEETS during covid at 94.9%.
- In relation to the types of participation it was noted that most of the young people stay on in Further Education. Some young people go into apprenticeships, and this is slightly under the national average but work is ongoing to improve this.
- The September guarantee for 2021 data shows that the number of Young People in Warwickshire who have been offered a suitable post 16 place (appropriate to their qualifications/needs/experiences) was 98.7% which is higher than the national figure of 95.5%
- The information published annually by the Department for Education (DfE) shows that the number of NEETS in Warwickshire reduced.
- The DfE information also showed the number for “not known” young people has also reduced.
- The committee noted that the majority of NEETS are in the Nuneaton & Bedworth district and 50% of those young people have a vulnerable marker. Officers are aware of the vulnerabilities and working closely with each person.
- It was confirmed that officers are working with the Chamber of Commerce to identify apprenticeship vacancies that would be suitable for Warwickshire Young People

Following a question from Councillor Brett Beetham, Sarah Tregaskis confirmed that since Covid, there has been an obvious change in how officers are able to engage with young people. The mental health support available to young people has increased and this has helped. The support offered isn’t static, and this seems to be working well for Warwickshire.

Councillor Pete Gilbert asked if the data for the Nuneaton & Bedworth district could be split into the two areas. Nuneaton and Bedworth are two different places with different needs and different opportunities and it isn’t always helpful to have just one set of data. It was agreed that Sarah Tregaskis would provide the information for each ward.

Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince asked if officers were always getting placements right after looking at the data in relation to young people who drop out; and if there were enough places in

Warwickshire. It was confirmed that the Post-16 Sufficiency is something that officers regularly look at and refer to the number of pupils coming through schools to ensure there are enough places. There are regular dialogues in place.

Sarah Tregaskis confirmed that the monthly data for NEETS will always show peaks and troughs – for example, every August everyone is NEET as the academic year hasn't started. However, each month, the data shows that Warwickshire is outperforming our statistical neighbours and the national figure. The same young people are not tracked every month due to placements ending or starting or the young person dropping out. Officers are working on sustained destination and it was agreed that further information on this would be provided to members.

Councillor Marian Humphries stated that the report highlights the brilliant work that is being done by officers at Warwickshire County Council to help young people to get ready for the road ahead. The committee wished it to be noted that officers are doing a fabulous job.

7. Children's Change & Transformation Fund Update

John Coleman - Assistant Director - Children & Families gave a summary to the committee of the investment plan for Children's Change and Transformation over the last three years.

Confirmation of the investment plan was given, including information in relation to the funding from the Department of Education and where the council had worked with Leeds City Council on the Warwickshire Family Value project.

The committee noted from the report that the impact of the work had been very positive and noted that more children are now receiving help earlier. Over 150 professionals from across Warwickshire took part in the Early Help Summit in January 2023 to explore future developments in this area.

It was noted that robust and effective support to families has led to fewer families starting and entering course processes; approximately 55% of cases are now diverted away. There has also been a marked increase in supporting children to live with families with Special Guardianship Orders.

It was confirmed that the Change and Transformation programme will be reviewed and evaluated over the next 12 months. Every quarter officers will meet with parents, carers and children. The full research report will be available after that but the council does have a lot of the data already.

John Coleman continued and stated that there are still things that need improving within the service such as the stability of placements. There are fewer children in care but there are not enough foster carers or placements. The committee noted that there is a continuous improvement plan in place that will sustain the cultural change and improvements.

Following a question from Councillor Brett Beetham, it was confirmed that the Caring Dads Programme (working with fathers in order to change controlling, abusive and neglectful behaviours) is in place and has been positively received by those taking part. It has positively

impacted 158 children and young people. The programme will continue as there are now enough officers to support it.

Following a question from Councillor Brian Hammersley in relation to becoming a foster carer, and how some people seem to be put off by how hard it appears to be, John Coleman confirmed that there is a really good package in place for Warwickshire in a competitive market. Warwickshire offers psychological support every 6 months as well as financial support. There is national guidance to follow and there has to be an assessment by a social worker. It was noted that the process can take up to three months. Councillor Hammersley asked if fostering could lead to adoption which was confirmed by John Coleman but it was noted that it doesn't always have to lead to adoption and it was important that those wanting to be foster carers were aware of that.

8. Local Area SEND Inspection Update - For Information Only

The report was included in the agenda pack for information purposes. Members of the Committee were asked to forward any comments or questions to the report author or Helen Barnsley in Democratic Services.

9. Nuneaton Education Strategy update - For Information Only

The report was included in the agenda pack for information purposes. Members of the Committee were asked to forward any comments or questions to the report author or Helen Barnsley in Democratic Services.

10. Work Programme and items on the Forward Plan

The Committee noted and agreed that updated work programme.

Items for the work programme and future meetings of the committee will be discussed at the next Chair & Spokes meeting which will be held on 29 March 2023 @ 10am. The meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

11. Any Other Business

Following a question from Councillor Justin Kerridge in relation to adding budget information to the performance report, Nigel Minns - Strategic Director - People Directorate agreed that some financial information could be added to reports. However, some budgets within Children and Families are extremely complicated and it would be impossible to provide an accurate breakdown for a report.

Committee members were reminded that there are three member development sessions booked for them in relation to SEND. The Chair shared the dates and times with committee members and asked that, where possible, they attended all three sessions (or as many as they could.)

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 April 2023 at 2.00 pm.

This meeting will be held at Shire Hall, Warwick.

The meeting rose at 12:05pm

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Chair

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Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

26th April 2023

Council Plan 2022-2027 Integrated Performance Report Quarter 3 2022/23

Period under review: April to December 2022

Recommendations

That the Committee considers and comments on Quarter 3 organisational performance and progress against the Integrated Delivery Plan, management of finances and risk.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report is a retrospective summary of the Council's performance at the end of the third quarter (April-December 2022) against the strategic priorities and Areas of Focus set out in the Council Plan 2022-2027. All information contained within this report has been taken from the Quarter 3 Integrated Performance and Finance reports Cabinet considered on the 16th February. Performance is assessed against the Key Business Measures (KBMs) contained within the agreed Performance Management Framework. This is summarised in Section 2 and more fully presented within Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Progress against the Integrated Delivery Plan is summarised in Section 3 and more fully presented within Appendix 2.
- 1.3 Management of Finance is summarised in Section 4 and the summary table is presented in Appendix 3.
- 1.4 Management of Risk is summarised in Section 5 and more detailed information is presented in Appendix 4.
- 1.5 The paper sets out a combined picture of the Council's delivery, performance, and risk. Officers are still embedding this new approach and performance framework, and a number of new measures will not be available for reporting until Year End. The format and content of these integrated performance reports continues to evolve within the current financial year. Both the Performance Management Framework and the Integrated Delivery Plan are under review in preparation for the 2023/24 reporting to begin.
- 1.6 Overall, the Council's performance has seen an improvement in performance compared with the Quarter 2 position and is now closer to the Quarter 1 position in terms of percentages, although assessed against significantly more reported KBMs. The encouraging position is in spite of the volatile, uncertain,

and high-risk external environment which is impacting on resources and the wider economic environment, capacity, and uncertainty about a number of key policy areas. For the KBMs in the remit of this Committee performance has improved considerably in Quarter 3 from Quarter 2.

- 1.7 There are 24 KBMs in total that are in the remit of this Committee and 16 KBMs are being reported at Quarter 3. For the KBMs available for reporting, the following table indicates an assessment of performance comparing previous Quarters:

Quarter	On Track	Not on Track
1	45% (5)	55% (6)
2	50% (6)	50% (6)
3	69% (11)	31% (5)

- 1.8 Appendix 1 details performance for all measures within the Performance Management Framework. Detailed measure-by-measure performance reporting is accessible through the Performance Portal accessible through this [link](#).

- 1.9 There are some key emerging themes highlighted by this report, including:
- Increasing demand being reported in services, specifically in the People Directorate and Business & Customer Services, such as the Local Welfare Scheme, Customer Service Centre, Brokerage and Family Support Workers; and
 - Capacity and workload issues are impacting delivery across the organisation. Through the YourSay survey and Big Conversations, workload has been highlighted by colleagues and forms a priority in terms of actions. Difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff in a highly constrained national and local labour market are reflected within the commentary on the Integrated Delivery Plan and performance and in paragraph 4.6 of the Management of Human Resources section in the full Cabinet report. Given the significant and growing financial/ inflationary pressures, there is no easy solution to these strategic workforce issues, which are being actively considered by the HR Strategy team.

- 1.10 Notable aspects of positive performance for specific measures include:
- No. of children subject to a Child Protection Plan, which has seen figures continue to reduce this Quarter, following consistently high and above target numbers since November 2021;
 - % of care leavers (Relevant and Former Relevant 16-21) who are not in education, employment and training (NEET), which has remained at or below the target figure despite current economic pressures;
 - % of 16-17 years olds participating in education and training, which is showing strong performance in Warwickshire when compared to figures for England, the West Midlands and statistical neighbours; and
 - Both the % uptake of places for eligible 2 year olds and % of children accessing 3 & 4 year old entitlement have remained high, demonstrating successes in these areas.

- 1.11 The main performance challenges relate to:
- The % of in year applications that have a school place offered within the target deadline of 10 school days, and % of in year applications that have a school place offered within the statutory deadline of 15 school days, which are both demonstrating lower levels than expected due to a new system being introduced last year. It remains an area of focus for improvement activity and encouragingly performance has improved month to month, with December achieving levels of 82% and 92% respectively.
- 1.12 The report sets out services' projected performance trajectory, which recognises a more volatile than usual environment as a result of external factors.
- 1.13 At the end of Quarter 3, for the Integrated Delivery Plan (IDP) 61% of activities are On Track to achieve their objectives within the set timeframes. 19% of activities are At Risk or Compromised, 19% Completed and a further 1% are yet to start, and it is these actions which are reported on in Appendix 2 on an exception basis.
- 1.14 One of the Council's 18 strategic risks relates to children and young people services directly and currently has a red status (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities resources are insufficient to meet demand), and two other red rated strategic risks relating to inflation and the cost of living, and the economy may impact on service provision and service demand. At service level the most significant risks relate to the ability to deliver the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Written Statement of Action, and the impact of Covid on learning outcomes.
- 1.15 The wider national context remains a critical frame within which to view the Council's performance. The UK continues to experience the consequences of both significant political, global and macro-economic turbulence, including industrial action across many sectors, the legacy impact of the pandemic, and the war in Ukraine. High inflation, rising interest rates and the resulting fiscal challenges are impacting the cost of living, increasing pressure on an already tight labour market, demand for public services and public finances.
- 1.16 Such an unprecedented combination of events at a global and national level leaves the country facing a period of significant uncertainty and a very challenging financial outlook in the short- to medium-term. This volatility is impacting on the Council's resources, both financial and in terms of recruitment and retention, levels of demand, and uncertainty about a number of key national policy areas including Adult Social Care reform, devolution, levelling up, cost of living and climate change Net Zero ambitions.
- 1.17 Inevitably these factors, which were not anticipated at the time the Integrated Delivery Plan and the Performance Management Framework were developed, are impacting on our priorities, focus, capacity and project delivery timescales. The reporting of performance will track and highlight these impacts on delivery and performance and inform the basis of prioritising activity and resource allocation as we undertake the refresh of the Integrated Delivery Plan.

2. Performance against the Performance Management Framework

- 2.1 The three strategic priorities set out in the Council Plan 2022 - 2027 are delivered through seven Areas of Focus. In addition there are three further areas to support the council to be known for as 'a Great Council and Partner'. The full performance summary is contained in [Appendix 1](#).
- 2.2 A set of high-level Warwickshire Outcome Measures, where we can influence improvement in performance but do not solely own, are also contained in the Performance Management Framework. Reporting against these is under development and will inform our ongoing State of Warwickshire reporting which will include Levelling Up and the Cost-of-Living priorities and will be accessible by April 2023.
- 2.3 Comprehensive performance reporting is enabled through the Power BI link [Performance Report](#) as part of the revised and adopted Performance Management Framework. Where applicable, some performance figures may now have been updated on the reporting system. For the latest situation, please refer to the Performance Portal.
- 2.4 The new approach to performance reporting is evolving, building on the recommendations of the Member Working Group. The number of reportable measures will change each quarter as the framework considers the availability of new data.
- 2.5 There are 24 KBMs in total that are in the remit of this Committee. Of the 16 KBMs which are being reported at Quarter 3, 11 (69%) are On Track and 5 (31%) are Not on Track. Three measures have seen a significant improvement this Quarter and have moved to On Track; see 2.6.
- 2.6 All 16 reported measures have a forecast projection from the responsible Service for the forthcoming period. 11 are forecast to stay On Track; with 1 declining, 3 remaining static and 7 improving. The 5 that are Not On Track at Quarter 3 are expected to remain as Not On Track for Year End. 4 of these measures will have improving performance but 1 will be declining.
- 2.7 12 KBMs were reported on at Quarter 2. It was forecast that 6 would be On Track at Quarter 3, with 6 Not on Track. Performance has materialised broadly as expected for those forecast last Quarter and being reported on in Quarter 3. Three measures that were forecast to be Not on Track are On Track this Quarter due to concentrated improvement activity, these are:
- The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan;
 - The number of children with an open Child in Need category including Child Protection Plans and Children in Care, and;
 - The number of children in care excluding unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Aside from these measures the Service projections made at Quarter 2 for Quarter 3 were largely accurate so it is anticipated that the forecast Year End position made now will be accurate also.

- 2.8 As an agile approach is being taken to the new Performance Management Framework and the changes as agreed by Cabinet at Quarter 2 have been reflected at Quarter 3 and includes, for the remit of this Committee, the addition of two new measures to monitor the school admissions process.

3. Progress against the Integrated Delivery Plan

- 3.1 The Integrated Delivery Plan aligns priority activity from across all service areas all Areas of Focus, within the Council Plan 2022-27. The plan shows how activity across services collectively contributes to delivering these priorities.
- 3.2 Detailed information on the performance summary of the Integrated Delivery Plan is included at [Appendix 2](#). A new [Power BI reporting dashboard](#) is now available and will enable Members to track progress by Service, status, Council Plan Area of Focus, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Portfolio Holder.
- 3.3 Of the remaining 205 actions within the Integrated Delivery Plan, 57 are attributable to the Children's Social Care OSC. At the end of Quarter 3 34 (61%) of activities are On Track to achieve their objectives within the set timeframes. 8 (14%) of activities are At Risk, 3 (5%) are Compromised and a significant 11 (19%) have now been Completed and a further 1 (1%) are yet to start, with any exceptions covered in Appendix 2.
- 3.4 Proposals for the Family Hub at the Wheelwright Lane Centre are being discussed by Corporate Board and this activity is now reporting as compromised.

4. Management of Finance

- 4.1 The key metrics of financial management are summarised below with further information available in [Appendix 3](#) and in the [Finance Monitoring Report](#) presented to Cabinet on 27th January 2023.

Metric	Target	Performance at Quarter 3 2022/23
Performance against the latest approved revenue budget as measured by forecast under/overspend	On budget or no more than 2% underspent	2.1% overspent

The headline revenue overspend reported at Quarter 3 is £1.7m (2.1%), however, specific funding has been set aside to be transferred to earmarked reserves. Once these factors are considered the adjusted forecast position is £1m (1.2%)

Performance against the approved savings target as measured by forecast under/overachievement	100%	61% under achievement
Performance against the approved capital programme as measured by forecast delays in delivery	No more than 5% delay	No Variance

5 Management of Risk

5.1 Risks are monitored in risk registers at a strategic/corporate level and at service level. At a corporate level 18 strategic risks are monitored and currently 1 strategic risk relating to the remit of this Committee is rated currently rated as high risk.

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities resources are insufficient to meet demand.

5.2 Mitigating actions are in place in respect of this risk for example through the activities of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Inclusion Strategy and the Education Sufficiency Strategy.

5.3 At a service level there are 13 risks recorded against services relating to Children and Families and Education Services. In this report key risks at service level are highlighted where they are red risks (high risk) and where a risk level has been higher than the risk target for 3 quarters or more and is currently still 3 points or more above target. To highlight the key risks a table of both red risks and risks above target is provided at [Appendix 4](#). The risks that are both red and above target are the most significant risks and are highlighted below:

- Being unable to deliver Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inspection Written Statement of Action within required timescales
- The impact of Covid upon learning outcomes

5.4 Mitigating actions are in place in respect of these risks including that the Written Statement of Action was assessed as fit for purpose by Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services, and Skills and the Care Quality Commission. In respect of Covid impacts on learning outcomes, actions include strategic alignment of existing teams to focus on the share objectives of reducing the numbers of children without a school place, and the county wide focus on levelling up.

5.5 Other strategic risks rated red will also impact on children and young people's services, in particular inflation and the cost of living, and the economy slowing or stalling which may impact on service provision and service demand.

6 Environmental Implications

6.1 There are none specific to this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – [Quarterly Performance Report](#)

Appendix 2 – [Progress on the Integrated Delivery Plan](#)

Appendix 3 – [Management of Financial Risk](#)

Appendix 4 – [Management of Risk](#)

Background Papers

[Cabinet Report 16th February 2023](#)

Role	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Vanessa Belton, Delivery Lead Business Intelligence, Performance, Planning and Quality	vanessabelton@warwickshire.gov.uk
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1. Children & Young People OSC Quarterly Performance Report Quarter 3

- 1.1 Detailed measure-by-measure performance reporting is accessible through the **Performance Portal**.
- 1.2 The three strategic priorities set out in the Council Plan 2022 - 2027 are delivered through seven Areas of Focus. In addition there are three further areas to support the council to be known for as 'a Great Council and Partner'. The full performance summary is contained in Appendix 1.

Area of Focus	No. of KBMs	No. of KBMs available for reporting Quarter 3
Create vibrant places with safe and inclusive communities	8	7
Deliver major infrastructure, digital connectivity and major transport options	7	6
Promote inclusive, sustainable economic growth, successful business, good quality jobs and future skills	10	6
Tackle climate change, promote biodiversity and deliver on our commitment to Net Zero	7	3
Deliver our Child Friendly Warwickshire strategy - Happy, healthy, safe children	10	7
Through education, improve life opportunities for children, young people and those with special educational needs and disabilities	16	12
Support people to live healthy, happy, and independent lives and work with partners to reduce health inequalities	12	10
A Great Council and Partner	No. of KBMs	No. of KBMs available for reporting Quarter 3
Harnessing community power	3	2
Our people and the way we work	8	6
Using our data and digital solutions to improve service delivery	4	4

1.3 Key Insights for Quarter 3 2022/23

1.4 There are 24 KBMs in total that are in the remit of this Committee. Chart 1 details the reported status of the 16 KBMs which are being reported at Quarter 3. 11 are On Track and 5 are Not on Track. The remaining KBMs are annual measures that are not available for reporting at this Quarter.

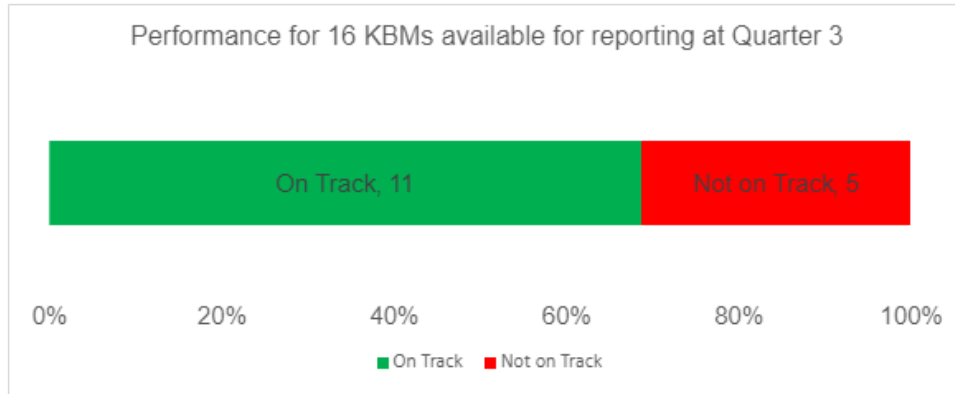


Chart 1

Chart 2 details the projected performance based on the service forecast of the 16 reported KBMs at the next Quarter (which is the Year End).

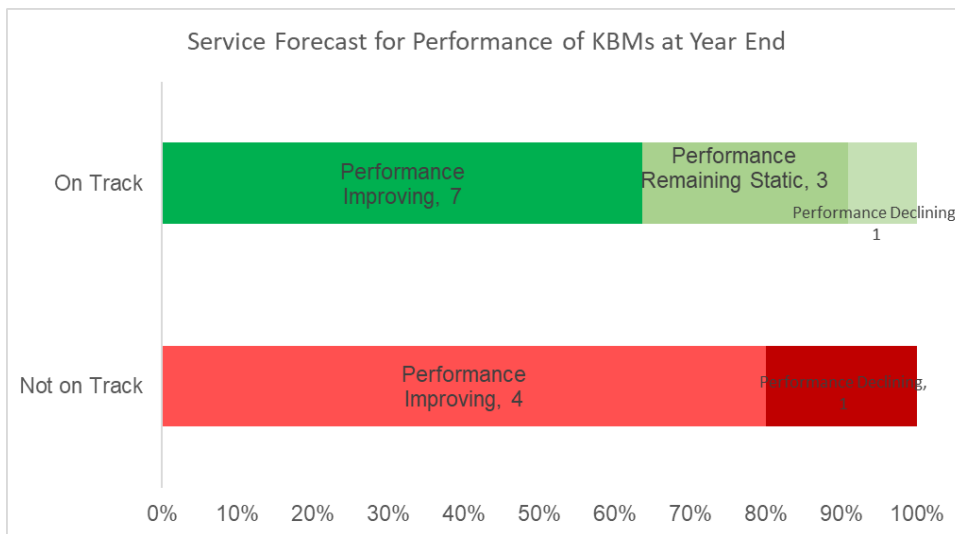


Chart 2

Explanatory Notes on Summary Tables

The following sections provide an overview of current performance by Area of Focus. The measure summary tables are a representation of the tables in the full Committee report on Power Bi and are interactive. Please note:

- data is being added into the system as it becomes available so new information may be in the reports since the writing of this Quarterly position report;
- measure names in the summary tables and where highlighted are all links to take the reader directly to the measure report page in Power Bi which provides full detail on the measure including charted data, performance narrative, improvement activity, trends and targets if applicable;
- a measure status is included based on performance either against the target and polarity of measure or where there is no target on improving/ declining performance;

- Services provide a forecast of where performance is heading over the next reporting period, this is informed by local knowledge, improvement activity and trend information;
- where the measure status or projection is Not Applicable, this is due to exceptional circumstances regarding the measure such as it is setting a baseline this year, the Power Bi report will provide the reason by measure;
- the Latest Figure column represents the most current data available including last quarter, previous year or longer if data is lagged, full details are on Power Bi report;
- not all measures have targets and the approach now is to have improving performance and targets where appropriate; and,
- as the framework is more responsive there are annual or termly measures included on the tables with no reported data, this will be added as the relevant data becomes available e.g. attainment data from November.

1.4 Deliver our Child Friendly Warwickshire strategy - Happy, healthy, safe children

Measure Name	Latest Figure	Latest Target	Measure Status	Service Forecast for next period
% of Children receiving a 6-8 Week Health Check	42.3	90	Not on Track	Not on Track Performance Improving
No. of children subject to a Child Protection Plan	346	350	On Track	On Track Performance Remaining Static
No. of children with an open Child in Need category including Child Protection Plans and Children in Care	3,745	3,500	On Track	On Track Performance Improving
No. of Children in Care excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children	693	670	On Track	On Track Performance Improving
% of care leavers (Relevant and Former Relevant 16-21) who are not in education, employment and training (NEET)	33	33	On Track	On Track Performance Improving
% of women who smoke at the time of delivery across Warwickshire (Cov & Warks)	8.8	9.6	On Track	On Track Performance Remaining Static
% Population vaccination coverage – Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) (5 years old)	89.60	This is an annual lagged measure with new data available March 2023		
No. of hospital admissions for intentional self-harm in children (10-24 year olds)	494.30			
No. of under 18 hospital admissions for alcohol, per 100,000 population	41.10			
Under 18 conception rate, crude rate per 1,000 females aged 15-17	13.6	n/a	Not On Track	Not On Track Performance Declining

Area of good progress due to figures being back on track, following consistently high numbers between November 2021 and September 2022:

- No. of children subject to a Child Protection Plan

Area of good progress due to this measure remaining at or below target despite the economic climate:

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

Improvement activity as figures are significantly below target and levels have been reducing over last few reported periods due to lack of qualified Health Visitors. This is being monitored and an action plan being followed after discussion at the Health and Wellbeing Board which includes a local measure to ensure children get a visit from a professional within the 6-8 weeks.

- % of Children receiving a 6-8 Week Health Check

1.5 Through education, improve life opportunities for children, young people and those with special educational needs and disabilities

Measure Name	Latest Figure	Latest Target	Measure Status	Service Forecast for next period
% of Early Years providers graded as Good or Outstanding	94	97	Not on Track	Not on Track Performance Improving
% uptake of places for eligible 2 year olds	91	75	On Track	On Track Performance Improving
% of children accessing 3 & 4 year old entitlement	97	96	On Track	On Track Performance Improving
% of Good and Outstanding Maintained Primary Schools	92	n/a	On Track	On Track Performance Remaining Static
% of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan attending mainstream school	49	48	On Track	On Track Performance Declining
% of top three school place primary & secondary preferences	96	Due for reporting in March		
% of Key Stage 2 children looked after achieving the expected standard for combined reading, writing and maths	31			
% of Key Stage 4 children looked after achieving grades 5 or above in English and Maths GCSE	7			
No. of education settings engaged with the support available to them through the Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy	75	n/a	On Track	On Track Performance Improving
% of 16-17 years olds participating in education and training	94.9	n/a	On Track	On Track Performance Improving
% of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 including English and Maths	73.40	Due for reporting in June		
% of in year applications that have a school place offered within the target deadline of 10 school days	65	n/a	Not on Track	Not On Track Performance Improving
% of in year applications that have a school place offered within the statutory deadline of 15 school days	76	n/a	Not on Track	Not On Track Performance Improving

Area of Good Progress due to consistently high levels of performance:

- % uptake of places for eligible 2 year olds
- % of children accessing 3 & 4 year old entitlement

Area of Good Progress due to strong, positive performance when compared to figures for England, the West Midlands and statistical neighbours:

- % of 16-17 years olds participating in education and training

Improvement activity as current performance is below expected levels for these new measures:

- % of in year applications that have a school place offered within the target deadline of 10 school days
- % of in year applications that have a school place offered within the statutory deadline of 15 school days

1.6 **Support people to live healthy, happy, and independent lives and work with partners to reduce health inequalities**

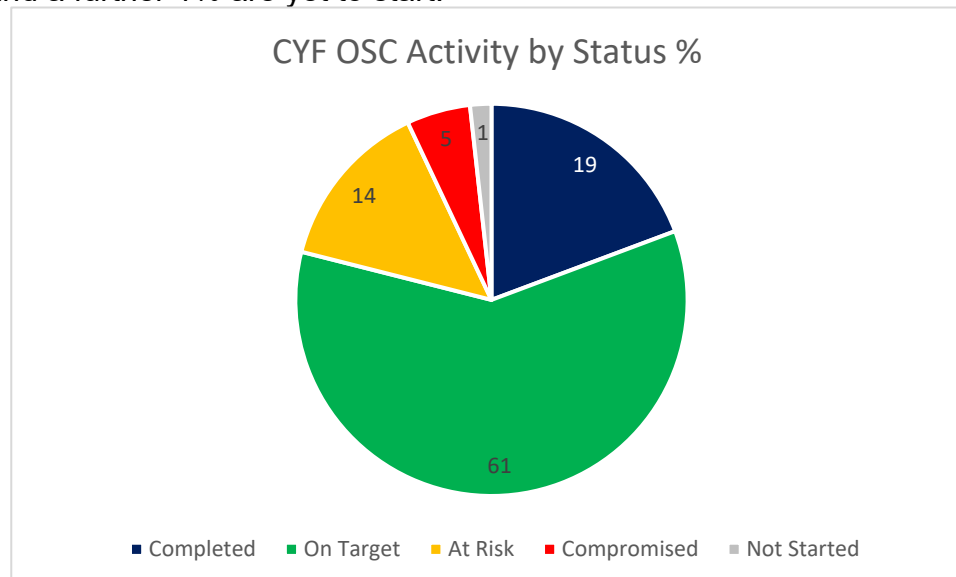
Measure Name	Latest Figure	Target	Measure Status	Service Forecast for next period
No. of suicide rates for those aged 10 & over, directly standardised rate per 100,000 population	11.20			Annual measure due in September

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1. Children & Young People OSC Progress on the Integrated Delivery Plan Quarter 3

1.1 Key Insights for Quarter 3 2022/23

Of the remaining 205 actions within the Integrated Delivery Plan, 57 are attributable to the Children & Young People OSC. At the end of Quarter 2 61% of activities are on track to achieve their objectives within the set timeframes. 19% of activities are At Risk or Compromised, 19% Completed and a further 1% are yet to start.



Completed activity:

The following activity has been completed this Quarter;

- Increase access to Early Help and Targeted Youth Work: Increase youth outreach work on the streets through the Youth Service bus being out and about out in all communities.**
 Detached youth sessions are continuing in all areas. Youth workers have also responded to concerns of children on ice.
- Increase access to Early Help and Targeted Youth Work: Provide free youth services led support in schools.**
 All secondary schools have access to the courses if they wish to book them.
- Increase access to Early Help and Targeted Youth Work: Continue to provide free parenting courses and advice, including exploration of new parenting approaches.**
 Established programme of parenting support offered and outcomes are strong.

- **Increase access to Early Help and Targeted Youth Work: Further increase timely access to brokerage and family support workers.**

We have had a surge in demand in 2 areas of warwickshire; Nuneaton and Bedworth and Warwick. There are waiting lists in both these areas which have also been impacted by staff sickness and requirements of Occupational Health. Extra staff have been recruited which we are ehopeful that once induction is complete will positively impact upon waiting times.

- **Increase access to Early Help and Targeted Youth Work: Provide a warm welcome and support to navigate services for refugees from Ukraine and other countries moving to Warwickshire.**

The redesign of the resettlement services has been completed and there are now consistent workers in the teams.

- **Continue to implement and evaluate Warwickshire Family Values (Council & DfE funded until 2023): Extend our use of Family Group Conferences (FGC) by guaranteeing access to an FGC for all children on the edge of care and subject to a child protection plan.**

The profile of FGC continues to increase and Family Group Conferences are available and targeted towards all children on the Edge of Care and those subject to a Child Protection Plan. The FGC team are now linked into to key decision making panels to ensure that children and families who fit this criteria are identified quickly and family meetings arranged to influence positive change. The service continues to work with individuals and teams to embed the expectation that a FGC is considered at the right time to prevent escalations and find family solutions.

- **Continue to implement and evaluate Warwickshire Family Values (Council & DfE funded until 2023): Continue to train Children's Services and other professionals in Restorative Practice.**

Restorative practice training continues to be available to all members of staff in C&F as well as bespoke sessions being provided to other directorates and partner agencies. The recent sustainability planning has retained Restorative Practice practitioners as we move to make our Children & Families academy a relational centre where all our Learning and Development will be restorative in nature.

- **Improve stability and outcomes for young offenders, children in care and care experienced young people: Implement new placement hub to identify the best homes for children in care and increase wrap around support for foster carers and children in care.**

The team has now settled and is working well as a team and with other teams across the county. We are recruiting additional workers to support identifying placements and will be looking to relaunch the Wrap Around Service in March 2023 (although those currently in post are still offering support) once the team has been fully recruited to.

- **Support young people and schools catch up on learning from Covid-19 by supporting schools with peer support initiatives to include: Encouraging schools requiring support to engage with locality-based consortia groups where small groups of schools and governors can have supportive and challenging conversations about self-evaluation of performance.**

The categorisation process has been completed with full engagement from all primary schools and 57% of secondary schools. The School Improvement team have Quality Assured the process for all schools who took part.

- **Support young people and schools catch up on learning from Covid-19 by supporting schools with peer support initiatives to include: Reviewing the latest schools performance data due to be published (not available since 2019 due to the pandemic) at each of the key stages from Early Years to Key Stage 3 and 4 and allocating support to schools to address identified areas requiring performance improvement.**

Completed, support for vulnerable maintained schools has been commissioned for the academic year from system leaders. Records of visits are monitored by the School Improvement team to review progress. Support for academy schools is discussed at Keep In Touch (KIT) meetings with the Trust CEO.

- **Provide support to Safeguarding in Education by contributing to a programme of audits to ensure safeguarding policy, practice and arrangements in schools and settings.**

This is now completed.

1.2 Deliver our Child Friendly Warwickshire strategy - Happy, healthy, safe children

Activity	Status	Narrative
Open our first Family Hub at the Wheelwright Lane Centre which will specialise in support for children, young people and their families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) issues.	Not Started	Corporate Board are awaiting options from Children and Families and Property Services.
Increase access to Early Help and Targeted Youth Work: Open the new Youth Centre in Bedworth.	At Risk	We still have not a clear timescale for the opening of a site in Bedworth, with a number of options being considered and reviewed.
Continue to identify and protect children at risk of abuse and neglect: Evaluate and seek to extend across the county Warwickshire Family Safeguarding being piloted in the north of the county, which integrates professionals specialising in mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse with children's services social workers.	At Risk	The Children and Families new Structure is now in place, and elements of Family Safeguarding have been introduced across the Service with multi-disciplinary practitioners now in our new Adolescent Service and in Corporate Parenting. A wider roll out of Family Safeguarding has been postponed at this time, pending the Department of Education's response on the National Social Care review due in February.
Continue to identify and protect children at risk of abuse and neglect: Improve the timeliness of Children and Family Assessments.	At Risk	Performance still remains below target, but good progress has been made with the target being met in sight.
Improve stability and outcomes for young offenders, children in care and care experienced young people: Ensure that Youth Justice and Children in Care Teams are sensitive to all aspects of	Compromised	There continue to be considerable risks with a lack of suitable placements both locally and nationally. However, we continue to see an increase in connected persons carers, are awaiting OFSTED registration for our first children's home and are

<p>diversity and work to address unfavourable disproportionality in the system.</p>		<p>progressing a further 2 homes one in the south and one in the north of the county.</p>
<p>Improve stability and outcomes for young offenders, children in care and care experienced young people: Open our first Children’s Home and identify properties for three other homes open by December 2023.</p>	<p>At Risk</p>	<p>Home 1 - still awaiting Ofsted registration. Home 2 - plans on track. Registered Manager recruited. Home 3 - community engagement completed with a number of objections and concerns raised from residents. Subject to the consideration of these, the next step is to apply for planning approval. Home 4 - continue to explore the market for a suitable property.</p>
<p>Working alongside Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership Trust and other partner agencies develop a Warwickshire & Coventry Children & Young People’s Mental Health Improvement Strategy and action plan: Continue to develop the eating disorder pathway and services.</p>	<p>At Risk</p>	<p>Improving performance in relation to urgent and routine referral times into the Eating Disorder Service remains a focus. Now that workforce issues have been resolved, there was improved performance seen in waiting times at the end of 2022. There is still more work needed to improve performance to the required level.</p> <p>Work has been undertaken during the end of 2022 to develop an Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID) consultation service. A workshop took place in November which brought together practitioners from across different disciplines where children with ARFID were presenting to develop this offer. Further work will take place in early 2023 to finalise this.</p> <p>Meetings have been undertaken between Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust and local GPs to scope out issues of support with step up and step down into the Eating Disorder service.</p>
<p>Working alongside Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership Trust and other partner agencies develop a Warwickshire & Coventry Children & Young People’s Mental Health Improvement Strategy and action plan: Strengthen support for vulnerable children and young people including those in crisis, looked after children, those with</p>	<p>At Risk</p>	<p>Work continues in the bronze and silver children in crisis escalation meetings to look at admission avoidance. An options appraisal has been completed detailing ways of approaching this and Fine Futures has been funded to deliver an admissions avoidance service for children aged 12-16 in Warwickshire. This will begin in January 2023 and will run as a proof-of-concept initiative. Other options considered but not approved will be</p>

<p>autism, Learning Disabilities and young offenders.</p>		<p>looked at in early 2023 by the wider system.</p> <p>Commissioners from Children and Young People's Mental Health and Autism/Learning Disabilities continue to work with partner agencies to support the implementation of the Autism Strategy. There is also a dedicated Children and Young People mental health provision linked into the Youth Justice Team.</p>
<p>Improve the health of children and young people in Warwickshire: Deliver the Child Accident Prevention work programme in partnership with key stakeholders.</p>	<p>Not Started</p>	<p>A desktop review and audit of child accident/unintentional injury activity in Warwickshire North has taken place. The final product is a report with recommendations for action/action plan. Addressing child accidents/injuries can only be effectively done through partnership working - WCC Public Health expertise, commissioned services such as Health Visiting, NHS providers and the Borough Council. Plans for Rugby are still to be finalised with partners but conversations are ongoing. Higher rates in Rugby have been investigated, and some of it is how the local hospital (University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire) codes admissions compared to other hospitals in the system. Coventry City Council also identified this when they investigated higher rates there. However, the public health team will bring a data analysis to Rugby Health and Wellbeing partnership for discussion and to look at what actions can be progressed. A child accident prevention audit at George Eliot Hospital (GEH) is to be carried out if GEH capacity allows. This is a piece of work that was stood down during the pandemic, GEH have initially agreed to begin this work in 2023 but the first meeting (scheduled Dec 2022) was postponed due to hospital pressures.</p>

1.3 Through education, improve life opportunities for children, young people and those with special educational needs.

Activity	Status	Narrative
<p>Work with partners and early years providers to tailor support to improve outcomes for children at the end of Reception to secure school readiness for all Warwickshire children and increase the take up</p>	<p>Compromised</p>	<p>Recruitment of a business support officer will enable further work in this area, but there is a still a vacancy and it has been difficult to recruit to both vacancies. Changes to the Integrated Disability Service creates a potential risk in supporting transitions for children with SEND, with a</p>

of funded 2-year-old places to include: Improving transition arrangements for children moving from nursery to reception.		potential reduction in the number of visits, particularly within the Private, Voluntary or Independent providers and childminders; Early years leaders and managers can feed in these concerns through the current review of the SEND service offer, which will review need and make recommendations.
Deliver our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inclusion Change Programme and Written Statement of Action (WSOA) following the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection to deliver against the key requirements and milestones: Reduce waiting times for autism diagnostic assessments with the longest wait for a diagnostic assessment reduced from 242 weeks to 13 weeks or lower by September 2024.	At Risk	Waiting time continues to reduce - 153 weeks in October 2022 versus milestone of 177 weeks for September 2022. IT issues continue following the cyber-attack upon an NHS IT supplier in August 2022 so the figures for longest waits are estimates. The system continues to over-perform in the number of assessments it is carrying out, with assessments being delivered by Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust and a range of commissioned external partners. In October 2022, 287 assessments were planned, yet 360 were delivered, an additional 73. Papers have been produced for executives from our partner organisations on future funding needs and options regarding securing ongoing capacity to deliver assessments.
Deliver our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inclusion Change Programme and Written Statement of Action (WSOA) following the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection to deliver against the key requirements and milestones: Ensure the effective delivery of services across SEND and Inclusion by reviewing current service delivery, engaging in a public consultation and implementing a future operating model.	At Risk	Public consultation on the new service model for SEND is underway, with online surveys, face to face events and broadcasts - up to 22nd February 2023

2 The following activities are On Track

Activity

Establish and implement a Children's Services Sustainability and Improvement plan, that maintains "good" graded services (Ofsted Inspection published February 2022) addressing areas for improvement and maintain the new ways of working implemented by the £12m Children's Change Fund received 2020-2023 from the Council and the Department for Education (DfE).

Increase access to Early Help and Targeted Youth Work: **Establish capital programme to improve and extend capacity at Youth & Community Centres and Children & Family Centres.**

Continue to implement and evaluate Warwickshire Family Values (Council & DfE funded until 2023): **Sustain and develop the Caring Dads offer to improve our engagement with fathers to improve the lives of children.**

Continue to identify and protect children at risk of abuse and neglect: **Provide advanced training to council and key partner agencies in County Lines and Child Exploitation.**

Continue to identify and protect children at risk of abuse and neglect: **Evaluate and seek to sustain Family Drug & Alcohol Court (funded by DfE until March 2023).**

Continue to identify and protect children at risk of abuse and neglect: **Improve the timeliness of work undertaken pre-proceedings & continue to use this mechanism to divert from care proceedings.**

Continue to identify and protect children at risk of abuse and neglect: **Review and implement new integrated Adolescent Support Team, to reduce homelessness, missing episodes and divert adolescents from entering care.**

Improve stability and outcomes for young offenders, children in care and care experienced young people: **Increase the number of Warwickshire foster carers by 10% by 2027.**

Improve stability and outcomes for young offenders, children in care and care experienced young people: **Review and improve the quality of supported accommodation for 16 –24 year olds in line with new legislation.**

Working alongside Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership Trust and other partner agencies develop a Warwickshire & Coventry Children & Young People's Mental Health Improvement Strategy and action plan: **Further explore and establish action plan for alternative methods to identify, assess, diagnose and support autistic children, to reduce assessment waiting times.**

Working alongside Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership Trust and other partner agencies to develop a Warwickshire & Coventry Children & Young People's Mental Health Improvement Strategy and action plan: **Further develop the mental health in schools trailblazers programme.**

Implement the Tackling Social Inequalities Strategy action plan: **Increase the number of children accessing Holiday and Food (HAF) scheme.**

Implement the Tackling Social Inequalities Strategy action plan: **Continue to provide support to families experiencing negative impact of increased cost of living through advice and support to maximise income and other measures to address fuel, food and digital inequality.**

Work with partners and early years providers to tailor support to improve outcomes for children at the end of Reception to secure school readiness for all Warwickshire children and increase the take up of funded 2-year-old places to include: **Providing more subsidised places on Early Years training.**

Work with partners and early years providers to tailor support to improve outcomes for children at the end of Reception to secure school readiness for all Warwickshire children and increase the take up of funded 2-year-old places to include: **Increasing the number of practitioners who attend the Early Years Aspiration Networks to share peer support.**

Work with education settings to continue to secure good quality education and improve academic outcomes for children in care by ensuring prompt intervention and effective support and challenge through delivering a programme of monitoring visits against identified priorities and providing support to designated teachers.

Work with our local universities, colleges, schools and partners to improve young people's aspiration for further and higher education opportunities including: **Participating as part of the "Think Higher" outreach programme.**

Work with our local universities, colleges, schools and partners to improve young people's aspiration for further and higher education opportunities including: **Developing an options appraisal on the potential for the County Council to further work with local universities and other partners to improve education attainment and social mobility, particularly focussing on areas of the county where educational attainment is lower.**

Deliver the strategy and action plan with partners to support young people in Nuneaton to achieve higher educational attainment and outcomes including: **Supporting the work of the Nuneaton Education Alliance which provides free resources for all schools in Nuneaton with training for school staff on a variety of subjects, including detailed autism training, and training on learning behaviours.**

Deliver the strategy and action plan with partners to support young people in Nuneaton to achieve higher educational attainment and outcomes including: **Working with colleges to improve information given to school leavers around post 16 study options, setting up a Nuneaton Careers Alliance to allow careers teachers networking opportunities with careers advice providers and working with North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire college to provide free events on careers in science, technology, engineering and maths.**

Ensure high quality school places are provided across the County where they are needed by: **Reviewing the school sufficiency strategy to develop a refreshed pipeline capital programme to meet the projected demand for school places, aligned to anticipated population and housing growth in the County.**

Ensure high quality school places are provided across the County where they are needed by: **Building a new all-through School and Nursery at Oakley Grove for South Leamington/ Warwick anticipated by September 2024.**

Ensure high quality school places are provided across the County where they are needed by: **In line with the Schools Admissions Code, respond to the immediate need for school places to accommodate children and families arriving in Warwickshire under the Homes for Ukraine scheme (and other refugees) and ensure those children can settle into an education setting and be supported to learn well.**

Deliver our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inclusion Change Programme and Written Statement of Action (WSOA) following the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection to deliver against the key requirements and milestones: **Develop a pathway of support for children, young people and adults awaiting a diagnostic assessment and/or post autism diagnosis that meets their needs.**

Deliver our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inclusion Change Programme and Written Statement of Action (WSOA) following the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection to deliver against the key requirements and milestones: **Strengthen relationships with parents and carers to build trust and confidence in the SEND system by developing an effective approach to communication and a whole system approach to co-production at a strategic level.**

Deliver our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inclusion Change Programme and Written Statement of Action (WSOA) following the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection to deliver against the key requirements and milestones: **Improve mainstream school leaders' understanding of why the placement of some children needs to be addressed by co-producing an inclusion charter with school leaders for children and young people.**

Deliver our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inclusion Change Programme and Written Statement of Action (WSOA) following the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection to deliver against the key requirements and milestones: **Increase knowledge and confidence of primary and secondary school staff by developing a robust training programme for SEND across Warwickshire.**

Deliver our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inclusion Change Programme and Written Statement of Action (WSOA) following the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection to deliver against the key requirements and milestones: **Further develop the role of the Area Analysis Group (AAG) and Education Challenge Board to enable challenge and support for school leaders.**

Deliver our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inclusion Change Programme and Written Statement of Action (WSOA) following the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection to deliver against the key requirements and milestones: **Review the quality of the online SEND local offer by ensuring all information is relevant and up to date so that families, key stakeholders and professionals can be signposted to information.**

Improve our Education, Training & Employment outcomes for young people and residents across the County by **working with partners to support young people aged 16-18 (up to 25 for young people with SEND) into Education, Employment or Training.**

Improve our Education, Training & Employment outcomes for young people and residents across the County by **offering targeted support to any young person identified as not in education, employment or training (NEET).**

Support young people and schools catch up on learning from Covid-19 by supporting schools with peer support initiatives to include: **A programme of visits to identified schools from an experienced Head Teacher to support curriculum recovery, identifying children needing support and other interventions with the activity evaluated against the Quality of Education strand of the OFSTED criteria.**

Support young people and schools catch up on learning from Covid-19 by supporting schools with peer support initiatives to include: **Implementing a programme of support interventions for new and existing Head Teachers including weekly team briefings, communications, wellbeing support and opportunities for Head Teachers to ask for specific support according to individual needs.**

Launch Warwickshire's Outdoor Education & Learning Strategy that will promote and support education settings to deliver and/or access a range of outdoor opportunities and develop and implement its delivery plan.

Appendix 3 Management of Financial Risk

1.1 The table below details performance against the latest approved revenue budget as measured by forecast under/overspend, further information and reasons for variances can be found in the [Cabinet Q3 Monitoring Report](#).

Service Area	Approved Budget	Service Forecast	(Under) /Overspend	% Change from Budget	Represented by:			
					Investment Funds	Impact on Earmarked Reserves	Covid Impact	Remaining Service Variance
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m	£m	£m	£m
Children & Families	85.094	86.858	1.764	2.1%	(0.088)	0.549	0.265	1.038

1.2 The table below details performance against the approved savings target as measured by forecast under/overachievement.

Saving Proposal	Target £m	Actual £m	Forecast £m	Shortfall/ (Overachievement) £m	Reason for financial variation and any associated management action
Savings on third party spend - Review of services purchased from third parties to ensure value for money.	0.107	0	0	107	Not achieved/ identified
Maximise income and contributions to care packages - Efficient collection of health contributions to children in care placements and income from safeguarding training.	0.300	0.150	0.259	0.041	Education Safeguarding training income not achieved
New ways of working - Reductions in staff travel, room hire, client travel and expenses from new ways of working post-Covid.	0.056	0	0	0.056	Current forecasts predict an overspend in this area of £0.163m.
Rightsize Children's and Families budgets - Remove contingency budget for Early Help and replace boarding school budget with existing budget in Children's Services.	0.010	0.010	0.010	0	Reduction in budget applied with forecast balanced.
Adoption - Education contribution to the Authority's share of the Adoption Central England costs.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0	Reduction in budget applied with forecast balanced.
Total	0.521	0.208	0.317	0.204	

1.3 The table below details performance against the approved capital programme as measured by forecast delays in delivery.

Service	Approved 2022-23 Capital Programme	New Projects in Year	Net Over / Under Spend	Total Capital Prog.	Budget Reprofile	Delays	Forecast In Year Capital Spend	% of Delays
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Children & Families	1.912	0	0	1.912	0	(0.025)	1.887	-1.3%

Children & Families Services - £0.025m

- Adaptations to support child placements 2020/23 - £0.025m. One of the applications to the fund which had previously been provisionally agreed has now been withdrawn. Since the scheme is demand led the spend has been re-profiled to future years pending further applications to the fund.

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Appendix 4 CYP OSC Management of Risk

Key Service Risks Summary

Children and Young People’s Services

At a service level there are 13 risks recorded against services relating to Children and Young People’s Services. Key risks are highlighted where they are red risks (high risk) and where a risk level has been higher than the risk target for 3 quarters or more and is currently still 3 points or more over target.

Key Service Risks	Net risk is currently green or amber	Net risk is currently red
<p>Risk level has not exceeded the target for 3 quarters in a row</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 other risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p>Risk level has exceeded target for 3 quarters in a row and is currently more than 3 points above target</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Children and Young People) Children and young people and vulnerable adults suffer avoidable injury or death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Education) Being unable to deliver Local Area SEND Inspection Written Statement of Action within required timescales • (Education) Impact of Covid on learning outcomes

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Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

26 April 2023

Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy progress report

Recommendation

The Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers and comments upon the progress made to date delivering Warwickshire County Council's Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the progress undertaken to date to deliver Warwickshire County Council's Outdoor Education and Learning strategy, the outcomes achieved, and highlight future priorities and opportunities.
- 1.2 Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will help to inform the direction and purpose of future work.
- 1.3 The report shows the strategy has been well received and engagement with schools continues to increase. Of the 11 objectives, two have already been fully achieved, eight are in progress, and one objective is in development. The delivery plan is regularly updated to ensure progress remains on track.

2. Background

- 2.1 Warwickshire Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 7 December 2021. The purpose of the Strategy was to promote and coordinate Outdoor Education and Learning opportunities to schools and settings rather than directly delivering services. It aims to support and enable Warwickshire's education system and those working within it to confidently deliver and/or access a range of outdoor learning opportunities. The goal is that all children and young people in Warwickshire can engage in high quality outdoor education and learning, appropriate for their age and ability, throughout their developmental journey.
- 2.2 The aim is to implement a sustainable approach to the strategy delivery. Where possible, delivery has focused on developing a culture within the wider Education workforce that values outdoor education and that is self-

perpetuating. It is envisioned that this culture could continue to grow and benefit young people.

2.3 Since the approval of the Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy and appointment of an Outdoor Education Strategy co-ordinator in May 2022, a range of work has taken place to progress with implementation of the strategy and its associated delivery plan. This report provides an update on progress and includes:

- Progress against the objectives of the strategy
- Engagement mapped against measures of success
- Future plans and priorities

3. Progress Against the Objectives of the Strategy

Objective	Activity undertaken to achieve objective
Encourage and support education settings to deliver their outdoor education and learning by providing information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A database was created of outdoor education practitioners across Warwickshire to enable targeting of communications to named key professionals within schools and settings. • Outdoor Education specific webpages were developed (https://schools.warwickshire.gov.uk/outdoor-education) containing links to teaching resources, grant opportunities and further information and guidance relevant to the strategy's audience. • Attendance at the Spring Headteachers conference as an exhibitor to promote the strategy and provide Headteachers with an opportunity to find out more about how the strategy could support their settings.
Develop an on-line directory of outdoor venues and activity providers who offer high quality outdoor education and learning opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A searchable directory was created of free or low-cost outdoor education destinations.
Signpost online resources useful for the planning and coordination of outdoor education and learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first of twice termly Warwickshire Outdoor Education Network newsletters (electronic) was developed and issued to subscribers. The newsletter aims to keep schools and settings up to date with local and

Objective	Activity undertaken to achieve objective
	national schemes of interest and provide helpful teaching resources and funding opportunities information.
Provide an opportunity for education leaders to share best practice and inspire each other and all their children and young people in the pursuit of education and learning outdoors, enabling inclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first online training session for Warwickshire schools and settings was delivered. The event was led by a Warwickshire primary school teacher and outdoor education expert. Participants were equipped to identify learning experiences through their curriculum planning and become more confident planning a learning experience outside the classroom. • An 'Outdoor Education Open Day' was held at Michael Drayton Junior School. The session included a tour of the outdoor education facilities and an opportunity to observe teaching an outdoor lesson to a class.
Survey children and young people and education settings on an annual basis to understand their needs and wants of Outdoor Education and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaising with the Child Friendly Warwickshire team to establish whether questions regarding the provision, quality and availability of local outdoor education can be included in the next CFW survey.
Establish a collaborative professional development network for Leads of Outdoor Education and Learning/ Educational Visits Co-ordinators and encourage all education settings to make a commitment to actively engage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed branding for the Warwickshire Outdoor Education Network • An online forum has been created to allow the opportunity for education workers to share ideas, resources, and network outside of planned events. This private group was created after seeking feedback from professionals on their preferred platform.
Promote access for disadvantaged pupils to outdoor education and learning opportunities by signposting to advice, funding sources and best practice information on promoting inclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with a special school to link them up with another setting to share their experience of developing their site. Supporting the re-establishment of their link with Country Parks. • Working with the head of virtual school to produce information for schools to explore ways of using Pupil Premium Plus money for Outdoor Education and Learning opportunities.

Objective	Activity undertaken to achieve objective
<p>Raise awareness among education leaders of local environmental issues and their relationship to the global climate by strengthening the links between nature, people, learning and skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of the accessibility and ease of 'local visits' to teach pupils about their local environment. • The online directory contains all of Warwickshire's local wildlife reserves, many in urban areas. • Working with Council lead on sustainable futures to actively support the Zellar rollout (where schools will be encouraged to reduce their climate footprint by completing climate friendly tasks little and often).
<p>Build on the experience of education providers, to enable the development of local services, facilities and activities, and to strengthen the provision of outdoor education and learning opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning visits across the Key Stages are taking place to understand more about the current provision of outdoor education and identify good practice examples. Visits have taken place to Michael Drayton Junior, Weddington Primary, Stockingford Nursery, The Revel Primary, Whitnash Primary, The Avon Valley School (secondary) and The Stratford Upon Avon School (11 – 18.)
<p>Act as a link between education settings, County, District and Borough Council teams (e.g. those providing outdoor facilities, or who can offer information and support for learning outdoors), as well as wider stakeholders both within and outside of Warwickshire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings held with several key stakeholders to understand the needs of the wider audience of the strategy and to look at opportunities to work together. Links have been made internally with: Country Parks, Heritage and Culture, Sustainable Futures team and Fire and Rescue. Externally with Everyone Active, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Stratford Town Trust, The Field Studies Council and Natures work and Coventry City Council's Outdoor Education Service
<p>Facilitate the provision by the Council and others of lifelong education and learning opportunities outdoors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity to support this objective to be identified and undertaken within year 2

4. Engagement Mapped Against Measures of Success

Education leaders report:	
Measures of Success	Engagement feedback
They have engaged with the support available to them through the strategy.	<p>The strategy was officially launched to all education settings in Warwickshire.</p> <p>To date 81 settings (33% of all schools in Warwickshire – Primary, Secondary and Special Schools) have engaged meaningfully with the strategy. Meaningful engagement means schools/settings that have been visited, been involved in a session, group meeting, or registered to attend the first training event.</p> <p>Since its launch there have been 398 hits on the Outdoor Education webpages which have been developed specifically for schools and settings.</p> <p>68 individuals have subscribed to the Outdoor Education Network newsletter since it launched in December 2022. With plans to increase these membership levels through targeted activity.</p> <p>Categorisation of school engagement using a RAG rating method (those who have actively engaged so far to those who have yet to engage in any capacity) is underway, this will enable development of approaches to target those schools who have not yet engaged.</p>
They feel better equipped to deliver outdoor education and learning.	<p>Over 60 education professionals attended the first online training event. Feedback received was overwhelmingly positive with 71% of attendees saying that they would provide more outdoor education within their settings because of the training. Further sessions are planned for May and July.</p> <p>An ‘Outdoor Education Open Day’ was held at Michael Drayton Junior School in Nuneaton. <i>‘All teachers said the session would help them to better use their existing outdoor education facilities, and to improve on those facilities and all agreed that as a result their pupils will get better and more frequent outdoor learning opportunities’</i></p>
They have strengthened their outdoor education and learning offer.	<p>This is being captured on an ongoing basis and will be reported at the next Overview and Scrutiny committee to enable time for impact to be realised and measured.</p>

Education leaders report:	
Measures of Success	Engagement feedback
Children and young people, including disadvantaged pupils, are developing the skills they need to flourish in life through the outdoor education and learning opportunities that they provide.	This is being captured on an ongoing basis and will be reported at the next Overview and Scrutiny committee to enable time for impact to be realised and measured.
Children and young people have the opportunity to be heard and their views contribute to developing outdoor learning.	This is being captured on an ongoing basis and will be reported at the next Overview and Scrutiny committee to enable time for impact to be realised and measured.
Children and young people report:	
Measures of Success	Engagement feedback
They have increasing opportunities to learn outdoors.	This data will be captured via the next scheduled Child Friendly Warwickshire survey
They have had increased positive experiences from engaging in outdoor activities and opportunities	This data will be captured via the next scheduled Child Friendly Warwickshire survey

5. Future Plans and Priorities

- 5.1 We are currently planning the key activities for the co-ordinator to focus on during their second year.
- 5.2 We are continuing to embed several activities developed within the first year. This includes continuing to write and issue bi-monthly newsletters, refreshing and updating webpages and meeting with education settings and other external organisations, to encourage participation in training events and wider networking opportunities.
- 5.3 Following feedback from schools the co-ordinator is working with internal and external colleagues to write guidance for Warwickshire teachers on

successfully finding grant funding for outdoor education and how to take more local visits in a school's local area

- 5.4 We are liaising with the Child Friendly Warwickshire team to establish whether questions regarding the provision, quality and availability of local outdoor education can be included in the next CFW survey, or other mechanisms which could be used.
- 5.5 We are in the process of identifying 'outdoor education champions' who will promote the benefits of, and good practice in, outdoor learning amongst their peers. Looking to identify primary and secondary champions in the north and south of the county.
- 5.6 Preliminary discussions have been held with Coventry City Council's Outdoor Education Service to co-deliver the next training session to schools and settings. Delivery of an online seminar will enable attendees to take away a six-week lesson plan to be used with their class back in their school/setting.
- 5.7 Ryton Pools Country Park have agreed to host an in-person training and networking event at the end of the summer term 2023.
- 5.8 We will continue to work closely with schools and settings to encourage and further equip education providers as they deliver the Outdoor Education and Learning opportunities to the children and young people of Warwickshire.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The strategy has had a further year's funding confirmed for 2024/25. Plans are being developed to look at what activity is undertaken within year 3 and how we ensure future sustainability.

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1 None

8. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 8.1 Feedback on the progress of the Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy to date will be received during the meeting.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Warwickshire County Council's Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy - [Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy](#)

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

Local Member(s): not applicable as county wide strategy

Other members: Councillor Kaur, Councillor Dahmash, Councillor Roodhouse,
Councillor Brown

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OUTDOOR EDUCATION & LEARNING STRATEGY 2022

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



Foreword

Welcome to Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy.

For this strategy, we define Outdoor Education and Learning as: "Learning through purposeful activities, experiences or challenges which predominantly take place outdoors and are organised by an education setting".

We value the education and learning that takes place outdoors and how making connections between nature, people, learning, and skills is a key element of how children and young people learn and develop.

We want all children and young people in Warwickshire to have the opportunity to access the experiences that are best for their development throughout their education journey and beyond.

With the emphasis on and promotion of outdoor education and learning through this strategy, we are seeking to encourage and further equip education providers as they deliver the environmental context for our children.



Cllr Jeff Morgan
Portfolio Holder for Children,
Families & Education



Izzi Seccombe OBE
Leader of the Council

Our Vision and Approach

WCC's ambition is for all children and young people to have access to and enjoy high-quality outdoor education and learning.

This strategy identifies how WCC will work with education settings (0-25) to promote and embed a culture of outdoor activities and challenges that stimulate learning.

Education settings have told us about their outdoor education and learning, including the challenges faced and their thoughts about how WCC might support and enhance their offer.

The Child Friendly Warwickshire Survey (2021) told us that children and young people want to prioritise improvements to play, leisure and cultural activities and these have become focus areas for Warwickshire's Children and Young People Strategy (2021-2030).

The Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy has natural links to other Warwickshire County Council's strategies namely: Health & Wellbeing, Voluntary & Community Sector, Green Spaces, Climate Change, Children and Young People and our support for Employability and Careers.



WCC's vision is that:

- All children and young people have access to and enjoy high-quality outdoor education and learning, appropriate for their age, ability, and experience.
- Educators value and embed outdoor education and learning in their curriculum planning.
- Education settings provide regular, frequent, enjoyable, and challenging opportunities for all children and young people to learn outdoors.
- A culture of outdoor education and learning is developed within all education settings, raising awareness of the importance of the outdoors for leisure and learning for both children and their families.

Objectives

WCC will:

- encourage and support education settings to deliver their outdoor education and learning by providing information.
- develop an on-line directory of outdoor venues and activity providers who offer high quality outdoor education and learning opportunities.
- signpost online resources useful for the planning and coordination of outdoor education and learning.
- provide an opportunity for education leaders to share best practice and inspire each other and all their children and young people in the pursuit of education and learning outdoors, enabling inclusion.
- survey children and young people and education settings on an annual basis to understand their needs and wants of Outdoor Education and Learning
- establish a collaborative professional development network for Leads of Outdoor Education and Learning/ Educational Visits Co-ordinators and encourage all education settings to make a commitment to actively engage.
- promote access for disadvantaged pupils to outdoor education and learning opportunities by signposting to advice, funding sources and best practice information on promoting inclusion.
- Raise awareness among education leaders of local environmental issues and their relationship to the global climate by strengthening the links between nature, people, learning and skills.
- build on the experience of education providers, to enable the development of local services, facilities and activities, and to strengthen the provision of outdoor education and learning opportunities.
- act as a link between education settings, County, District and Borough Council teams (e.g. those providing outdoor facilities, or who can offer information and support for learning outdoors), as well as wider stakeholders both within and outside of Warwickshire.
- facilitate the provision by the Council and others of lifelong education and learning opportunities outdoors.



Measuring Success

Education leaders report:

- They have engaged with the support available to them through the strategy.
- They feel better equipped to deliver outdoor education and learning.
- They have strengthened their outdoor education and learning offer.
- Children and young people, including disadvantaged pupils, are developing the skills they need to flourish in life through the outdoor education and learning opportunities that they provide.
- Children and young people have the opportunity to be heard and their views contribute to developing outdoor learning.

Children and young people report:

- They have increasing opportunities to learn outdoors.
- They have had increased positive experiences from engaging in outdoor activities and opportunities.

WCC will review the Strategy in 2024/25 and will take into account the learning and progress against the Delivery Plan.



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Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

26 April 2023

School Attendance Performance Report Academic Year 2021-2022

Recommendation

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Considers and comments on the report on school attendance levels in Warwickshire for the academic year 2021-2022 and the actions being taken to support improvements in school attendance.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The Department for Education (DfE) published pupil attendance and absence rates for academic year 2021/22 on March 16th, 2023.
- 1.2. This report provides the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of Warwickshire's pupil attendance and absence data for academic year 2021/22.
- 1.3. Following the disruption to education caused by the Covid-19 pandemic there has been a significant increase in pupil absence at both a national and local level. Part of this increase is due to a rise in authorised absences caused by illnesses and positive coronavirus cases. There has also been a reported rise in mental health issues, resulting in a growth in emotionally based school avoidance or anxiety (EBSA). This has also been reflected nationally by an increase in the numbers of parents choosing to withdraw their children from school to electively home educate with the main reason given for the decision being emotional/mental health issues.
- 1.4. In 2021/22 Warwickshire's overall absence rate increased to 8.1% from 4.7% in 2020/21, which was higher than the national average at 7.6%. Both Warwickshire's and the national average overall absence rates are higher than the previous academic year (2020/21).
- 1.5. Warwickshire's persistent absence rate, the percentage of pupils who missed 10% or more sessions, doubled from 11.9% in 2020/21 to 23.7% in 2021/22, which was slightly higher than the national persistent absence rate of 22.5%.
- 1.6. Due to the increases in absence levels, school attendance is now a high priority both nationally and locally. The DfE issued new guidance in May 2022; 'Working together to improve school attendance' for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities. The guidance emphasises that improving school attendance is not a single agency responsibility and that many barriers to attendance can be removed with the right support.

- 1.7. In-line with the new DfE guidance, Warwickshire County Council's approach to improving pupil attendance is changing. The new attendance focused multi-agency approach builds on Warwickshire's Early Help pathway to change, working together with schools and local partners to help maintain high levels of attendance, identify the root cause of absence, and help to remove any barriers to attendance.

2. Background

- 2.1 The law entitles every child of compulsory school age (aged 5-16) to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, ability and any special educational need they may have.
- 2.2 It is the legal responsibility of every parent/carer to make sure their child receives an education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise, such as elective home education.
- 2.3 Where parents/carers decide to register their child at a school, they have a legal duty to ensure their regular attendance.
- 2.4 It is a schools' responsibility to accurately complete the admission and attendance registers, promote and support good attendance, reduce absences, and have effective day to day processes in place to follow up any absences.
- 2.5 Schools can offer families support via 'Early Help' to help address the barriers to attendance.
- 2.6 In recognition of the increase in the number of young people who are experiencing mental health difficulties, there are a number of local and national initiatives that schools can access, such as the Mental Health in Schools Teams that are based in many schools in Warwickshire offering support to children and young people.
- 2.7 Where support is not working, being engaged with, or appropriate, local authorities work with schools to provide formal options, including parenting contracts, education supervision orders or enforce attendance through legal intervention.
- 2.8 Local Authority duties also include issuing sanctions, including fixed penalty notices to parents/carers who fail to ensure their child's regular attendance at school in line with the local authorities' non-school attendance code of conduct¹. Parents can also be prosecuted under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

¹ ['Non-school Attendance and Penalty Notices Code of Conduct'](#).

2.9 The DfE release fixed point pupil absence statistical data three times a year:

- Autumn term data (released May),
- Autumn and Spring term data (released October)
- Full school year data (released March)

This data is open to public view at a national, regional, Local Authority and school level. Ofsted utilise this data in their visits to a school.

2.10 Attendance data is presented and published nationally as non-attendance (absence) rather than total attendance.

2.11 School attendance data is not available for academic year 2019/20, as the DfE did not collate a full data set due to COVID-19

2.12 The DfE published the full academic year 2021/22 data on 16 March 2023², as outlined below and in more detail in Appendix 1.

2.13 Attendance data is lagged which presents many challenges. To overcome some of these challenges the DfE have introduced a new attendance data system, this will enable all schools to share their live attendance data with the DfE and their respective local authority. Using the new system is not yet a statutory requirement, however, 78% of schools nationally and 82% in Warwickshire have already signed up (as of March 2023).

Changes to Local Authority and other agencies responsibilities.

2.14 In May 2022, the DfE published 'Working together to improve school attendance'³, which replaced all previous guidance on school attendance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities with the exception of the existing statutory guidance on parental responsibility measures. This guidance is currently non-statutory; however, the Secretary of State for Education has committed to the guidance becoming statutory (no earlier than September 2023).

2.15 The guidance sets out expectations about how local authorities should work with others to maximise school attendance. The guidance reinforces that to successfully treat the root cause of absence and to remove barriers to attendance, it requires schools, trusts, governing bodies, local authorities and local partners to work together. Securing good attendance cannot therefore be seen in isolation, and effective practices for improvement will involve close interaction with schools on curriculum, behaviour, prevention of bullying, special educational needs support, pastoral and mental health and wellbeing, and effective use of resources, including pupil premium.

² [Statistics: pupil attendance and absence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/pupil-attendance-and-absence)

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

2.16 The expectation on local authorities includes:

- rigorously track local attendance data,
- have a School Attendance Support Team,
- communication and advice,
- targeting Support Meetings,
- multi-disciplinary support for families,
- legal intervention,
- monitor and improve the attendance of children with a social worker through their Virtual School.

2.17 Warwickshire's new approach to supporting schools and families to maintain high levels of school attendance builds on the existing multi-agency 'Early Help Pathway to Change' and is in the process of being rolled out to all schools and academies in Warwickshire.

2.18 The guidance also places new expectations on schools, trusts, governing bodies, and parents/carers.

2.19 The expectation on schools includes:

- to develop and maintain a whole school culture that promotes the benefits of high attendance,
- have a clear school attendance policy which all staff, pupils and parents understand,
- accurately complete admissions and attendance registers and have effective day to day processes in place to follow-up absence,
- regularly monitor and analyse attendance and absence data to identify pupils or cohorts that require support with their attendance and put effective strategies in place,
- build strong relationships with families, listen to, and understand barriers to attendance and work with families to remove them,
- share information and work together with other schools in the area, the local authority and other partners when absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe.

2.20 The expectation on parents/carers includes:

- to ensure their child attends every day unless a statutory reason applies,
- only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances, book medical appointments around the school day, if possible,
- work with their child's school and local authority to help understand their child's barriers to attendance,
- proactively engage in support offered to prevent the need for more formal support or legal intervention.

- 2.21 To support the transition to meet the new expectations, The DfE have appointed Attendance Advisers to enable every local authority access to at least three days of free support over the next two academic years. Warwickshire has been allocated an adviser and had an introductory meeting in December 2022.

3. 2021/22 Data- Key Headlines.

- 3.1 In 2021/22, 75,735 compulsory school age pupils (aged 5 to 16) were enrolled in Warwickshire schools (not including independent schools).
- 3.2 The overall pupil absence rate in Warwickshire has increased from 4.7% in 2020/21 to 8.1% in 2021/22 and is higher than national average rate at 7.6%. Absence levels were in-line with national and other comparators prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, since COVID-19, the gap in attendance rates in Warwickshire and those nationally has increased (Appendix 1, table 1).
- 3.3 Throughout the academic year pupil absence in Warwickshire fluctuated, absence was lower in the Autumn term at 7.6%, it increased across the Spring term to 8.6% and then slightly reduced across the Summer term to 8.4%.
- 3.4 Warwickshire is now ranked 128th out of 152 LAs for its overall absence, compared with 91st in 2020/21 and 73rd in 2018/2019.
- 3.5 Pupil absence levels vary across the five districts in Warwickshire. North Warwickshire reported the highest level of overall absence at 9.6%, compared to 7.4% in Warwick district (Appendix 1, table 3).
- 3.6 Absence levels in Warwickshire secondary schools was 10% which was one percentage point higher than the national average at 9.0%. Absence rates in primary schools was 6.5% which is in-line with the national average at 6.3% and absence rates in special schools was 13.8% which is in-line with the national average of 13.2%.
- 3.7 Children with Special Educational Needs, including those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and those identified as SEN Support had a higher rate of absence than their peers who do not have SEND. Absence rates for this group have increased both nationally and in Warwickshire, however, the gap for both groups has widened (Appendix 1 table 5).
- 3.8 The absence levels of Children in Care are not published as part of this data set.
- 3.9 Persistent absence (the percentage of pupils who missed 10% or more sessions) also increased to 23.7% from 11.9% the previous year. This trend was also mirrored nationally, increasing from 12.1% to 22.6% in 2021/22.
- 3.10 Warwickshire's reporting of authorised absence for illness has doubled from 2.4% in 2020/21 to 5.1% in 2021/22 and is higher than the national average of 4.4%.

- 3.11 Warwickshire's reporting of absence without authorisation has increased from 0.7% in 2018/19 to 1.4% in 2021/22, which suggests schools are increasing their challenge to absence.
- 3.12 Further analysis is taking place to fully understand why Warwickshire's absence levels have been impacted more than national and why recovery from Covid in Warwickshire has been slower. A number of local targeted initiatives have been implemented to support with improving attendance, for example, the development of an Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) pathway, the Lost in School⁴ project and targeted work with WCC's School Improvement team to help support schools with recovery from COVID. Whilst there have been some reported improvements in reducing absences the full impact of these initiatives will not be available until the end of the 2022/23 academic year.

4. Environmental Implications

None.

5. Financial Implications

The County Council has agreed an additional allocation of £335k from April 2023 to support the delivery of the new attendance model.

6. Supporting Information

None.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1: - Warwickshire's School Attendance data – academic year 2021/22

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⁴ <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2860/new-pilot-set-to-improve-outcomes-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-in-warwickshire>

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

Local Member(s): N/A as the report covers the whole county.

Other members: Councillor Kaur, Councillor Dahmash, Councillor Roodhouse, Councillor Brown.

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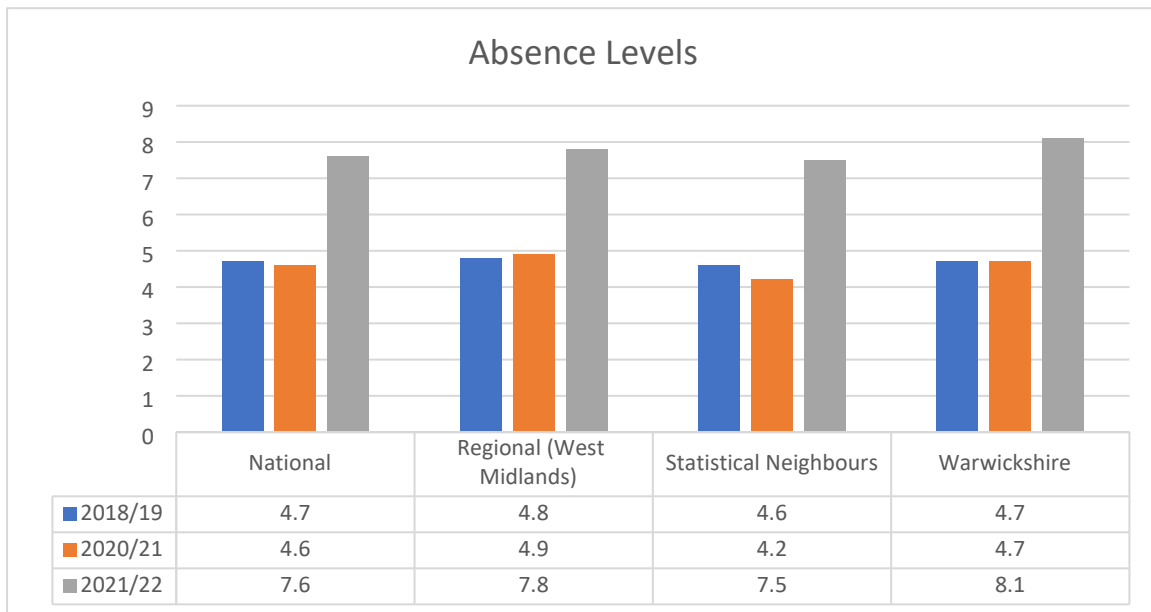
Appendix 1 – Warwickshire’s School Attendance Data 2021/22.

- The DfE published the full academic year 2021/22 data on 16 March 2023.
- School attendance data is not available for academic year 2019/20, as the DfE did not collate a full data set due to COVID-19

Overall Absence

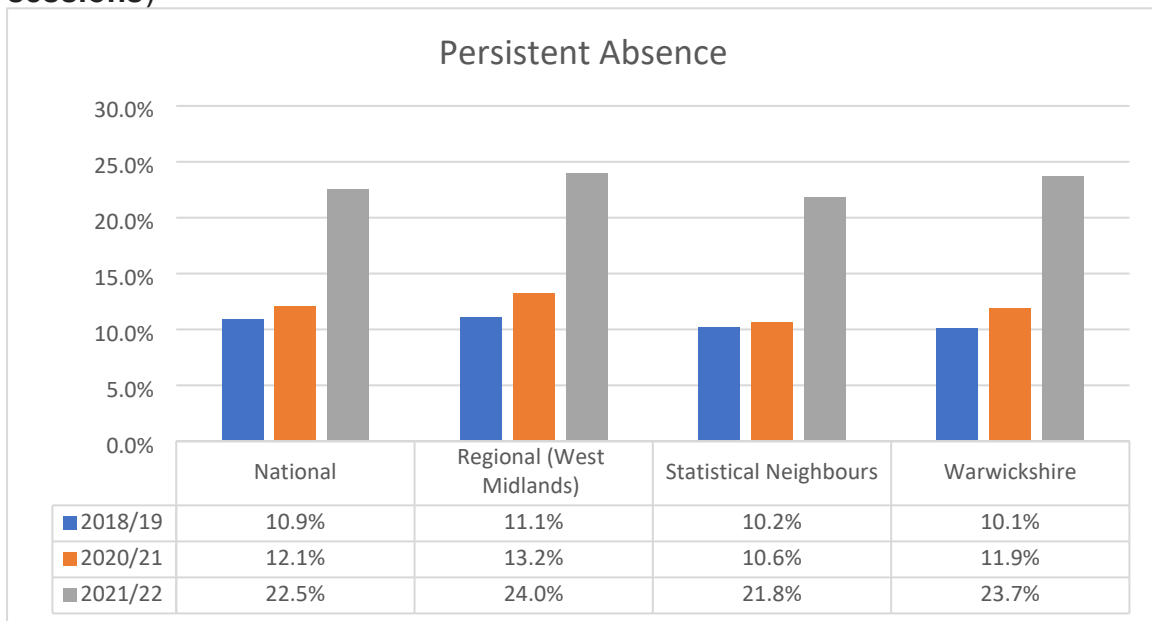
Table 1- School Absence Levels 2018/19 – 2021/22.

Table 1 shows Warwickshire’s overall absence rate mirrors the national trend.



Persistent Absence

Table 2- Persistent Absence Levels (% of pupils who missed 10% or more sessions)



Absence by District

Table 3- Overall Absence at District level

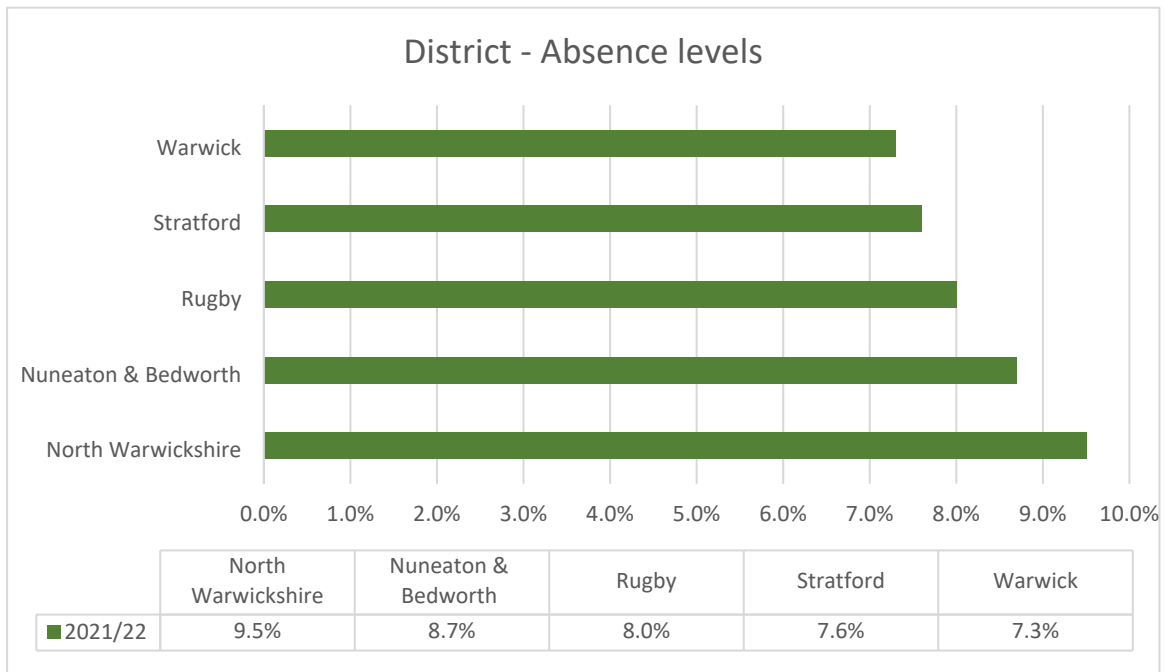


Table 4- Persistent Absence at District Level

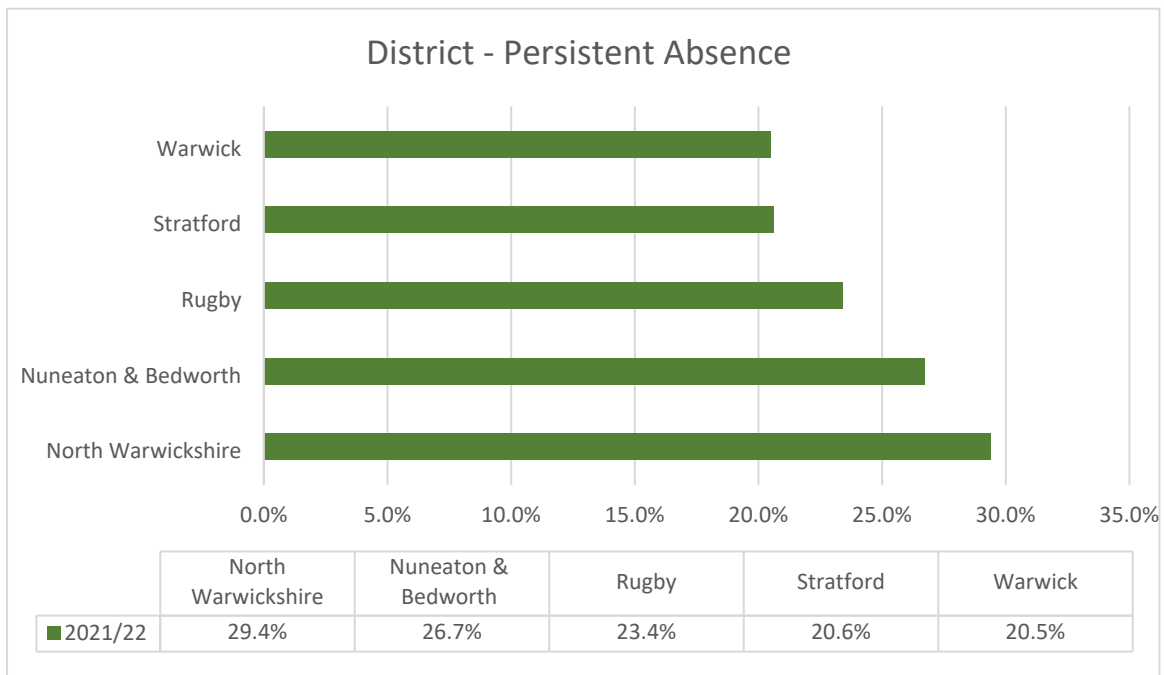


Table 5 - Absence levels for children with Special Educational Needs (SEND)

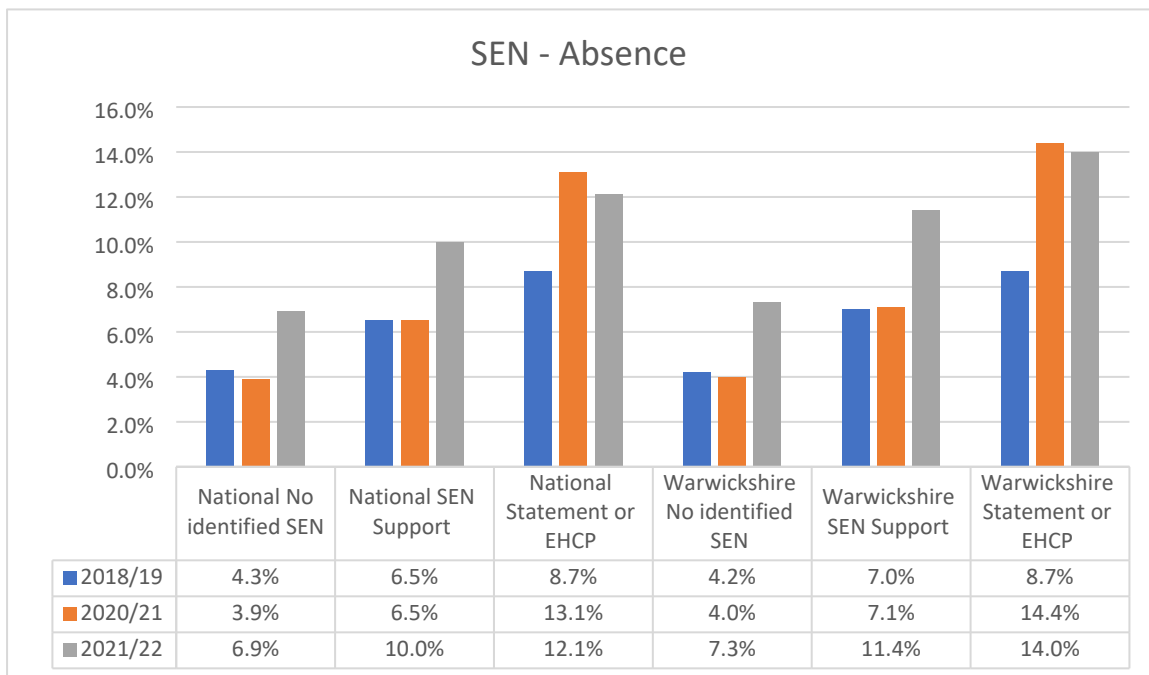
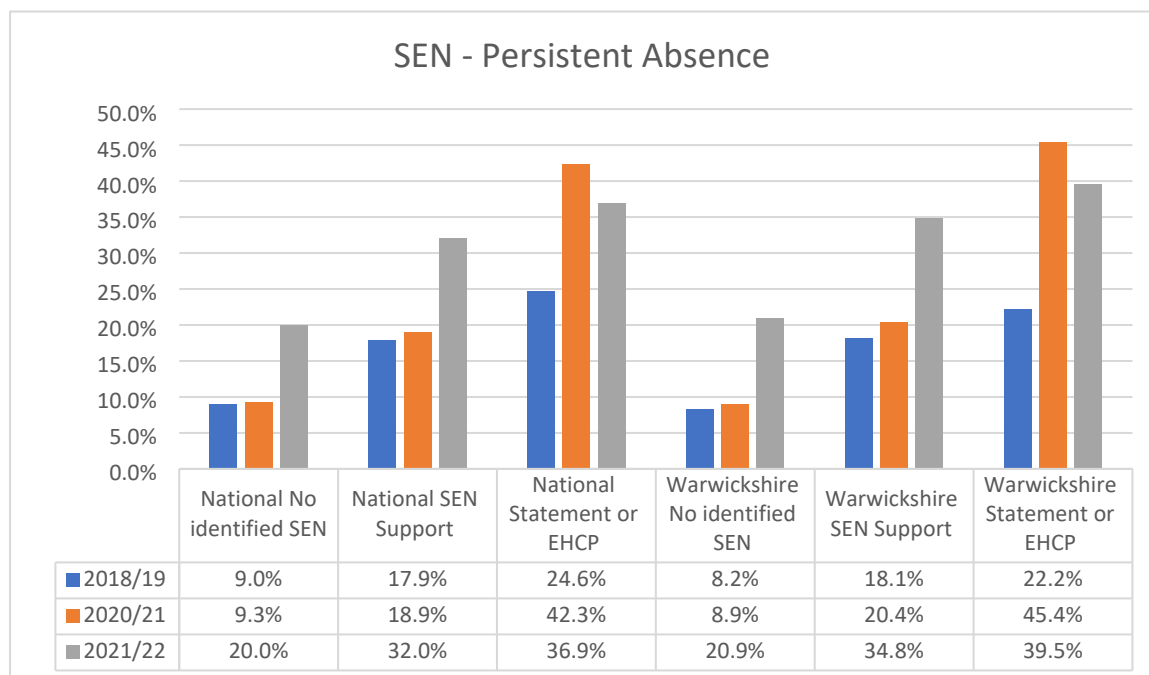


Table 6 – Persistent Absence levels for children with Special Educational Needs (SEND)**Absence Codes**

Schools are required to use the appropriate absence codes when taking the attendance register. The table below identifies the current absence codes and definitions.

Table 7 – Absence codes

Code	Definition	Statistical Meaning
I	Illness	Authorised absence
M	Medical appointments	Authorised absence
R	Religious Observance	Authorised absence
S	Study Leave	Authorised absence
T	Traveller absence	Authorised absence
H	Holiday approved	Authorised absence
E	Excluded	Authorised absence
C	Leave of Absence – granted by the school	Authorised absence
G	Holidays not approved	Unauthorised absence
U	Late after register	Unauthorised absence
O	Other unauthorised absence	Unauthorised absence
N	Absence reason unknown	Unauthorised absence

Table 8 – Warwickshire’s use Absence Code

The use of absence coding by schools over the last three comparable years shows the use of the code ‘I’ (illness – authorised absence) has doubled from 2020 to 2021. The use of the ‘O’ code (absent without authorisation) has also increased which indicates schools are increasing their challenge to absence.

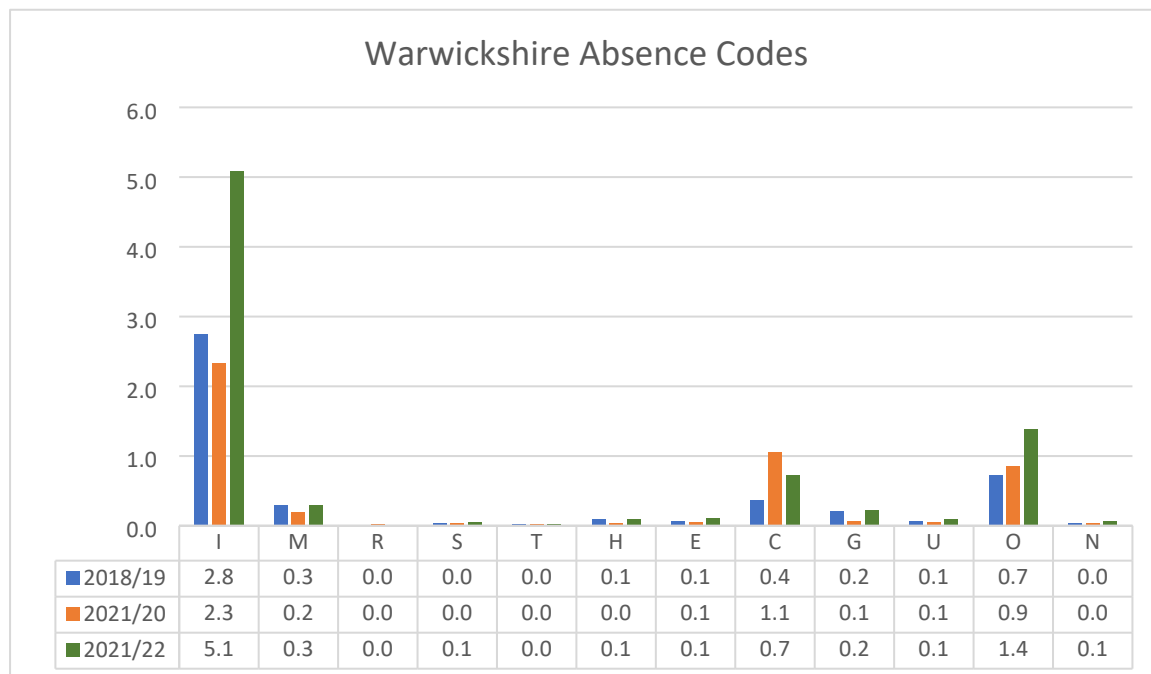
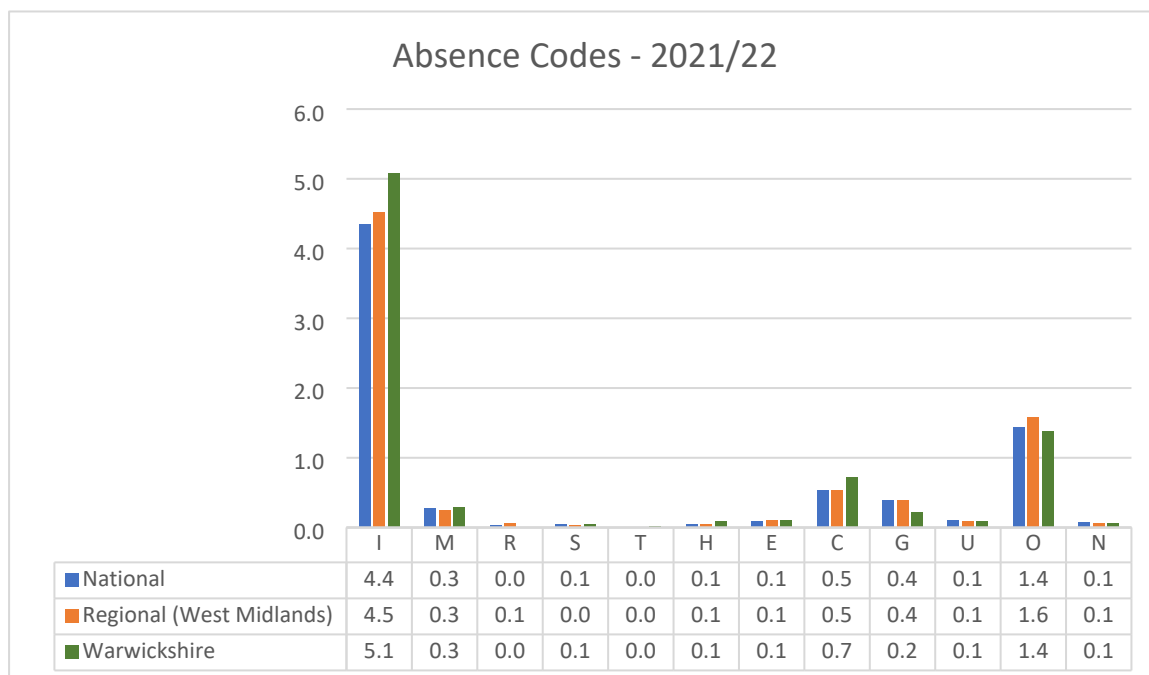


Table 9 - Use of Absence codes compared to national



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Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: April 2023

Item	Report Detail	Date of Meeting
Questions to Cabinet Portfolio Holders	Up to 30 minutes of the meeting are available for members Committee to put questions to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.	Standing items for every meeting
Updates from Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Assistant Directors	Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Assistant Directors are invited to provide any updates they have on issues within the remit of the Committee.	
Corporate Parenting Panel Update	Portfolio Holder for Children & Families is invited to provide an update on the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel. To include an update from the Children in Care Council and other forums. Verbal Update from Care Leavers Joint Forum Meetings (11/04/2023)	
Integrated Performance Report	Quarterly performance updates presented to the Committee. Link to Power BI Platform	Quarterly Reports – next due on 26 April 2023 (Quarter 3)
Report Detail		Date of Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Education progress • School Attendance Performance Report - 2021/2022 		26 April 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Admissions Review to include update on transfer offers and in year arrangements • Children & Family Centre Updates and Strategic Direction 		13 June 2023

Report Detail	Date of Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal Update from Care Leavers Joint Forum Meetings (11/07 & 10/10) 	14 November 2023
	27 February 2024

Future Items to be added to the Work Programme

- Visit for the Committee to be arranged to the Warwickshire Academy (Formerly the PEARS site)
- Joint meeting with the Adult Social Care and Health OSC in relation to Mental Health and its impact on Children
- Sustainable Futures Strategy (*possibly June or September meeting*)

Motions from Council – none currently

Briefing Notes/Information circulated

- School Places information broken down by District and Borough – *emailed to committee members 16.02.2023*
- OFSTED Inspections in Warwickshire - *emailed to committee members 16.02.2023*
- Customer Feedback Report 2021/22 – *emailed to committee members 21.02.23*

Member Development Sessions relevant to the committee

- OFSTED - How schools are inspected – 27th April at 2pm
- Overview Session on Education Services – 17th May at 2pm
- Children & Families - a brief overview (including Corporate Parenting) – 7th June at 10am
- Education Services (SEND) – Session 3 – 27th June at 3pm

Please note all member development sessions are held via Microsoft Teams, unless otherwise stated. Please contact Democratic Services if you have not received a Teams calendar invitation.

Items on the Forward Plan relevant to the remit of the Committee

Decision	Description	Date due	Decision Maker
School Sufficiency Strategy	A report setting out updates to the School Sufficiency Strategy	25 July 2023 County Council	13 July 2023 Cabinet
Warwickshire 0-25 Education Sufficiency Strategy	Refresh of the Warwickshire Education Sufficiency Strategy	25 July 2023 County Council	13 July 2023 Cabinet
Annual Education Sufficiency Update 2023	Annual Education Sufficiency Update 2022 - providing updated data and context in support of the Education Sufficiency Strategy	12 October 2023	Cabinet

- **Next Committee Meeting. These meetings will be held at Shire Hall, Warwick.**
 - 13 June 2023 @ 10am
 - 19 September 2023 @10am
 - 14 November 2023 @ 10am
 - 27 February 2024 @ 10am

- **Next Chair and Spokes Meeting - these meetings will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams**
 - 23 May 2023 @ 10am
 - 25 October 2023 @ 10am
 - 13 February 2024 @ 10am

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