

Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday 27 February 2024
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Committee Room 2, Shire Hall

Membership

Councillor Marian Humphreys (Chair)
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Barbara Brown
Councillor Justin Kerridge
Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince
Councillor Penny-Anne O'Donnell
Councillor Chris Mills
Councillor Kam Kaur
Councillor Sue Markham
Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi
Councillor Piers Daniell
Councillor Tim Sinclair
Phil Johnson
Michael Cowland

Items on the agenda: -

1. General

(1) Apologies

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5 - 14

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 Directors

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

4. Corporate Parenting Panel Update 15 - 18

The Portfolio Holder for Children & Families 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.

The work programme for the Panel has been included in the reports pack for information only.

5. Quarter 3 Integrated Performance Report 19 - 52

Quarterly performance updates presented to the Committee by Johnny Kyriacou, Director of Education.

[Link to Power BI Platform](#)

6. Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy 2022 Progress Update 53 - 70

7. Warwickshire Futures - looking ahead to 2030/40 71 - 76

8. Work Programme and items on the Forward Plan 77 - 80

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

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 9 April 2024.

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 on line 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.

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Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 25 January 2024

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Marian Humphreys (Chair)
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Barbara Brown
Councillor Brian Hammersley
Councillor Justin Kerridge
Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince
Councillor Clare Golby
Councillor Jeff Morgan
Councillor Chris Mills

Officers

Johnny Kyriacou, Director for Education Services
Nigel Minns, Executive Director for Children and Young People
Helen Barnsley, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Leah Adams, Head of Early Years and School Effectiveness
John Coleman, Director - Children and Families
Sophie Thompson, Intervention Data and Project Management Officer
Lauren Sime, Business Improvement Officer

Others Present

Andy Mitchell, Local Democracy Reporter

1. General

The Chair was unavoidably delayed and was not present at the start of the meeting. It was agreed that Helen Barnsley, Senior Democratic Service Officer would start the meeting, covering apologies, disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, the minutes of the previous meeting and public speaking.

It was agreed that Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Vice-Chair, would chair the meeting, starting at Item 3 until Councillor Marian Humphreys arrived.

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Penny-Anne O'Donnell and Phil Johnson (Co-optee and Chair of Stockingford Local Governing Body). Apologies were also received from Uju Okereke, Public Health Consultant.

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Clare Golby confirmed that she had submitted updated disclosure forms to the legal team but that they did not affect any items on the agenda for the meeting.

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th September 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising.

2. Public Speaking

None.

3. Question Time

(1) Questions to Cabinet Portfolio Holders

None.

(2) Updates from Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Directors

Councillor Kam Kaur, Portfolio Holder for Education confirmed that, in relation to early year entitlement and provider rates, work is progressing well and there are plans for a briefing note to be circulated as soon as ready. It was confirmed that the fair access protocol launched was last week and has been well received by head teachers and further amendments will be taken forward. Councillor Kaur asked that her thanks to the teams across the council who had been involved were noted.

Councillor Sue Markham, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families, confirmed that the council's bid to become a sector led improvement partner (commissioned by the Department for Education) had been successful. This means that the service will be able to support other authorities to improve and is a great indication of the confidence in Warwickshire's children's services. There are details to finalise, but this is a great news story.

Councillor Jeff Morgan asked if there would be any link between being a sector led improvement partner and future gradings from OFSTED inspections. John Coleman, Director of Children & Families Service confirmed that there would not be a direct link other than to be a sign to OFSTED of the confidence in Warwickshire.

In relation to Warwickshire children's homes, it was confirmed that four have now been completed, with the second home due to open in April 2024. There is another home that the council is hoping to acquire.

Councillor Markham confirmed that she had visited a Loudmouth session – a programme with the aim of preventing the exploitation of children in Warwickshire. The Committee noted that sessions run for a range of ages and if any member would like to join future sessions, to contact John Coleman.

4. Corporate Parenting Panel Update

Councillor Sue Markham, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families presented a brief overview of the reports that were included in the agenda pack for today's meeting. Points from the report such as the introduction of mental health boxes, consultation with young people in relation to the redesign of the access to records process and recent Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) training for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) were highlighted to the Committee.

In relation to the RSE training, the Committee noted that sessions had been very well attended and were a good introduction to cultural differences related to this topic.

Following a question from Councillor Clare Golby in relation to the number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children in Warwickshire, it was confirmed that there is a mandatory national scheme in place which requires all local authorities to support a number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children equivalent to 0.1% of their overall 0 – 18 population. For Warwickshire, this equates to 119 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children. It was noted that 40% of all of Warwickshire Care Leavers are Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and that funding is received for each placement.

Councillor Golby asked a follow up question in relation to the placement of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children out of the county. John Coleman, Director of Children & Families Service agreed to provide further information in relation to Councillor Golby's question. In addition, Councillor Golby asked for further information in relation to the pathways taken by Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children once they arrive in Warwickshire, including (age) verification processes. It was agreed that this information would be shared with the Committee.

Councillor Jeff Morgan requested feedback from users of council run schemes, such as grandmentors. It was agreed that this information would be circulated to the committee.

5. Quarter 2 Integrated Performance Report

John Coleman, Director of Children & Families Service gave an overview of the slides as a summary of the performance which is further covered in the report.

The Committee was pleased to note that the majority of performance related to this committee is on track. The following points were highlighted –

- In relation to Education, the majority of measures are on track and performing well. There has been an increase in good/outstanding performance in primary schools.
- The number of nursery school places being taken is improving, although still not yet at target. Work is underway to promote free nursery places and make sure that people know that they are there to be taken up.

- It was confirmed that 94.9% of care leavers are now in education, employment, or training.
- Health Care Plan performance remains static and is approximately 8% below the national average. Officers acknowledged that this is an area with work to focus on. This will be covered in Item 6 – SEND Analysis.
- It was confirmed that the Children in Care numbers are not on track. Consideration is being given to a potential review of the target to see if it remains realistic.
- In relation to some targets showing red, it was confirmed that some data is only provided annually so will not be 100% accurate at certain points throughout the year.

Following a question from Councillor Barbara Brown in relation to the low number of child protection plans in place, and a concern that could potentially mean that some children at risk have not been identified, John Coleman confirmed that the Warwickshire system is extremely robust. There are quarterly thematic reviews undertaken with outside agencies such as the police to ensure that the system remains robust.

Councillor Sue Markham, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families, asked if Warwickshire's performance was better than some other authorities because of the decision taken to keep early help and intervention in place. It was confirmed that other authorities have had to make the difficult decision to stop early help and intervention programmes; mainly due to budget/funding pressures. Warwickshire has been able to maintain a high level of investment.

Following a question from Councillor Justin Kerridge in relation to staffing issues, John Coleman confirmed that there is a national issue concerning social worker recruitment. There is a new strategy underway relating to recruitment and retention. The Committee noted that Warwickshire County Council has its own programme for recruitment including graduate and apprenticeship placements. In addition, there is a wellbeing policy and counselling support for all social workers. It was confirmed that a new campaign is ready to launch, and a briefing will be circulated to members in the next few weeks.

It was confirmed that of the £15m overspend in the children and families service, £6m is attributed to an overspend in staffing. The Committee noted that the need to employ agency social workers had contributed to the overspend. The investment in Warwickshire children's homes will ease some of the financial pressures.

Nigel Minns, Executive Director for Children and Young People confirmed that the pressure on the SEND budget is significant. The budget given to the authority has increased over the last five years by about 53%. However, the demand on the service has also increased over the same period, by about 50%, so that cost per placement for a SEND child has not actually increased and additional costs have to be covered by the council.

Resolved

That the Committee considers and comments on Quarter 2 2023/24 organisational performance and progress against the Integrated Delivery Plan, management of finances and risk.

The Chair, Councillor Marion Humphreys entered the meeting and, after thanking Councillor Jerry Roodhouse for chairing during her absence, took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

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6. SEND Analysis

Ross Caws introduced the report which highlighted the developments over the last year. The following points were highlighted –

- The report outlines the outcomes across the SEND population – broadly positive in attainment and progress. There are issues around attendance and exclusions as highlighted in the report.
- In relation to the Delivering Better Value Programme, it was confirmed that Warwickshire County Council was asked to be part of the programme along with 55 other authorities. Each authority had an overspend on the High Needs Block. The programme has been a positive experience for gathering evidence in a consistent way, across local authorities, for the reasons for the overspend. In addition, the programme has provided a five-year forecast for future spend.
- The Committee noted that significant increases were forecast, not just in case loads but also with the associated costs for different placements; for example, cost for state school placement vs independent specialist educational provision where costs can be double. This information will be reported back to the DfE.
- The following four projects were submitted for grant applications - inclusion framework; development of the workforce within mainstream schools; accelerating resource provision; and digital infrastructure.
- Training for staff in schools has been picked up as a key area for focus. Investment in mainstream schools and staff is a key part of the Delivering Better Value Programme.
- In relation to the Written Statement of Action following the OFSTED inspection in 2021, it was confirmed that five areas for progression were identified. Good progress has been made across these areas, but they are unable to be signed off until the next OFSTED inspection. There is a new inspection framework in place and Warwickshire County Council's next inspection will be some time in the next five years. This is down to OFSTED and not the DfE or the council.

Following a question from Councillor Justin Kerridge, it was confirmed that resource provision is an area the council must continue to support and invest in. In addition, the need for specialist provision is increasing and likely to continue to increase. Warwickshire County Council's aim is to ensure that all children are placed in appropriate settings as part of the programme.

Councillor Brian Hammersley raised a question in relation to the figures presented in the report and asked if there was any known reason for the increase over the last 5 years in the numbers of people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) SEND diagnosis and why this was increasing so rapidly. Councillor Hammersley questioned why so many people now seemed to have such needs compared to when he was at school. He expressed concern at the budget overspend this created which was not affordable to the Council or other Councils, with Councils continuing to expend money and having no control over costs. Cllr Hammersley questioned whether we should go back to the source of the problem to address the spend pressures. In response, Ross Caws confirmed that not all SEND resources are required to be funded by the council, some are funded by the schools. The increase in diagnosis across SEND can be attributed to increased need and increased understanding of needs. Early diagnosis, including identifying conditions at birth, has also increased. A programme of early identification and intervention means that more children with support needs are being identified. Ross Caws commented that the Audit and Standards Committee had considered SEND and the progress against the written statement of action as well as understanding the different elements of SEND funding.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse raised a question in relation to ensuring that the corporate narrative from the service is reaching the right people and ensuring that families understand the terminology that is being used. Nigel Minns, Executive Director for Children and Young People confirmed that there is a SEND partnership board in place, across the local authority and health and it brings together all the key players and identifies each area's responsibility. This continued partnership working means that all the right people are in the right room at the right time; and that for each child an agreed and shared action plan will be put in place.

It was confirmed that funding is only available for those projects forming part of the action plan under the Delivering Better Value Programme for one year. The challenge will be ongoing support and change in mainstream school. The challenge for expanding resourced provision is capital funding. Early intervention will continue to be key and will be a single element of performance metrics moving forward. It was noted the Warwickshire performance in early identification exceeds many other authorities and the council is ahead of the national target.

Councillor Roodhouse raised concerns that absences and exclusions have increased over the last twelve months. Ross Caws acknowledged that this was not just in relation to SEND children or those with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. There will be a review of absences and exclusions as part of the wider education review.

Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince said that we are better at identifying SEND now in children. We need to be better at explaining what identification of SEND means for parents. Councillor Simpson-Vince commented on the resourced provision in Rugby that she was involved in and is very proud of. She encouraged other schools to host a resourced provision.

Councillor Jeff Morgan expressed worry that the threshold for judging intervention and identifying the need for additional support continues to reduce. He questioned the proposition that increasing demand correlates to increasing need and suggested that a more rigorous approach which involved not automatically accepting requests for additional support, when the issue could be

poor behaviour, could be considered. Councillor Morgan continued that there should be checks and balances in place as the system seems to continually reduce the threshold.

Nigel Minns confirmed that special education needs has only existed as a concept since 1981; prior to this, children would be diagnosed as having disorders of the body or the mind; they were 'medicalised' and would often be deemed to be unsuitable for education. He disagreed that the threshold has reduced since it was introduced. In 1981 the estimate was that 20% of children attending a school would have SEND. In Warwickshire, it is currently 17%. Identifying who they are, what their needs are and how we support them has become much more sophisticated.

Lauren Sime, Strategy and Development Officer responded to the comments made by Councillor Hammersley and Morgan, stating that families put their trust in the services provided by the council and their partnership organisations and voluntary services. The community and family support is not necessarily available as it was and that there is an element of change required.

Cllr Hammersley questioned whether the approaches employed when he was younger should be reintroduced. He reinforced the monetary challenges and suggested that money would be better spent on early intervention and finding the cause of the need.

Councillor Kerridge requested an explanation of resource provision be given to the Committee so that members had a full understanding. It was agreed that an updated Written Statement of Action along with information regarding resource provision would be shared with the Committee.

Councillor Kerridge asked for additional information in relation to reducing the number of EHC plans. Ross Caws confirmed that there is currently a focus on reducing the number but that there is still a need to ensure that needs are appropriately and properly met. Nigel Minns confirmed that supporting children with additional support needs, in a mainstream school and without an EHC plan is the ideal. The Committee noted that the aim is to reduce the need for an EHC plan rather than reducing the number of EHC plans. There may be alternative support options available and appropriate.

Councillor Barbara Brown asked if it would be advisable to extend the membership of the SEND Partnership Board to voluntary and community organisations as well as the Parent Carer Forum. Ross Caws confirmed that a more holistic approach was under consideration and that he would consider that suggestion.

Councillor Barbara Brown asked a question in relation to attainment (e.g., exam results) vs achievement (individual ability), adding that some children may not get good exam results but may have achieved more than results yet still be considered a failure. It was agreed that a better understanding of the difference is needed. In addition, it was confirmed that outcomes in EHC plans are reviewed every year, but this information is held in Word documents and therefore the non-academic outcomes are not easily aggregated. It was noted that this is a topic that could be explored further by the Committee.

Councillor Clare Golby requested that more plain English be used when discussing topics such as resource provision to ensure that everyone can understand what was being said and to make it more accessible for people who may have SEND requirements. Ross Caws confirmed that there would be a review of the terminology used in the council's communication in relation to SEND.

Following on from earlier comments from Councillors Hammersley and Morgan, Councillor Golby suggested that one question to pose is what comes down to parenting and what comes down to SEND issues, how that was identified and what pathways are available for people who do not have a SEND need but do have parenting skills shortages.

In addition, Councillor Golby asked if the rise in the number of children with SEND could be attributed to the rise in social media use by families and the sharing of information about how to get a diagnosis on social media sites, which could be increasing the number of requests for diagnosis. Councillor Golby requested further information on the percentage of assessments that lead to a full diagnosis and how many cases do not get a diagnosis after assessment. She also questioned whether there were any causal effects or trend data which could be broken down further, and whether particular communities or schools were generating proportionately more or less requests for assessment. In response to an earlier contribution, Councillor Golby went on to comment on the connectivity between councillors and their local communities in which they are embedded and requested that the information requested be provided.

Ross Caws confirmed that 50% of requests for assessment have been refused recently and 2% of those assessed do not receive a SEND diagnosis/EHC plan. In the last few months, 75% of requests have continued to assessment.

It was also confirmed that there are national reports and research available relating to potential trends and that this information will be shared with the Committee. The Committee was reminded that there was a lot of data included in the report's appendices that may answer some of the questions raised today.

The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation.

Resolved

That Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny committee:

1. Notes the update on the current financial position of the High Needs Block and the future demand and expenditure forecast from the High Needs Block for children and young people with SEND.
2. Endorses the four projects proposed in the Delivering Better Value grant application attached at Appendix 1
3. Considers and comments on developments since the public consultation on the local SEND Offer

7. Achievement of Warwickshire Children and Young People in Statutory Assessments 2023

Leah Adams, Head of Early Years and School Effectiveness presented an overview of the report and presentation.

The changes to how statutory assessments have been undertaken are fully explained in the report, but to summarise, the aim was to stabilise and get back to normal after the disruption of covid.

The following points were made to outline the work undertaken by the education team.

- Education Strategy is currently under development. It was confirmed that part of that work includes a review of the school effectiveness strategy which is due to be launched in September 2024.
- The school effectiveness team will focus on the performance in each of the districts and boroughs in Warwickshire and as a result will be able to provide the committee with performance at a district level rather than a county level.
- In relation to the new school model, it was confirmed that education teams and children & family teams will work collaboratively to ensure the best results. The work will focus not just on schools but will also include nurseries. The virtual school is included in the work being undertaken.
- The Committee noted that the complexity of needs within early years is widening. There is an ambitious delivery plan underway. The focus is at the stage before school starts; to ensure that any support needed is already in place.
- Overall, early years children are performing well but with the incredibly ambitious plan, there is always room for the performance to be better.
- The Committee noted that external factors can influence the performance, including managed moves. Officers are looking at how exclusions can be prevented and are attending network meetings.
- In relation to disadvantaged children, the Committee's attention was drawn to the gap between National non disadvantaged and Warwickshire Disadvantaged children. Moving forward, this will be an opportunity for the team to use the information from top performing districts and apply it to better support the disadvantaged children.
- Confirmation was given in relation to the Warwickshire Educational Board and that the right partners are all part of the board. Nigel Minns added that the Board acts as a single method of engagement and that Directors and Executive Directors are also part of it. It was agreed that the Board is a step in the right direction for improving the issue of communication. The aim is that the Board will help to break down any remaining barriers and that key partners can all work together.
- Councillor Brian Hammersley asked if the lack of retention of head teachers is having an impact on what officers were trying to achieve. Leah Adams confirmed

that some head teachers are leaving to support education in other areas but that it should be noted that some multi academy trusts can offer greater opportunities. The job of a head teacher is challenging and getting more so.

- It was confirmed that there is a pastoral and support offer made to all head teachers within Warwickshire and that overall, head teachers seem to be feeling supported at this point in time, and as a result, more positive about staying in post. The Committee noted that part of the current work is to ensure that everyone, including head teachers, feel involved and included.

Resolved

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and comment on the performance of children and young people in Warwickshire's state-funded schools in statutory national tests.

8. Work Programme and items on the Forward Plan

The Committee noted and agreed that updated work programme and items on the Forward Plan relevant to the remit of the Committee.

The Chair asked that if members of the Committee had any requests for topics to be added to the work programme for future meetings, they should contact Helen Barnsley, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

9. Any Other Business

None

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 27th February 2024.

The meeting will be held at Shire Hall, Warwic

The meeting rose at 12:50

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Chair

Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme 2024

Item	Report detail	Date of Meeting
Update from CICC and Care Leaver Forum and Change Team	Children in Care Council/Care Leaver's Forum, & Voice, Influence and Change Team Update – <u>next full update 15th January 2024</u>	* Standing items for every meeting
Performance Data	Report which includes key data regarding CLA & Care Leavers	
Development of Work Programme for 2023 and Forward Plan information	To consider proposed work programme & future areas of work for the panel; including information from the forward plan with items relevant to the remit of the panel	
Report from the Virtual School Head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Term (March/April) - focus on validated achievement outcomes • Summer Term (July/August) - focus on other work of the Virtual School such as enrichment opportunities, as this supports the raising achievement agenda. • Autumn term (November) - focus on provisional achievement outcomes 	Quarterly Report – next report due 25th March 2024

Report detail	Date of Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sibling Strategy (Sheila Beckett) Care Leavers Offer and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children Offer 	25 th March 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Force Strategy 	1 st July 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing Episodes 	30 th September 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering and Alternative Carers Support Team Annual Report Adoption Annual Report 	18 th November 2024
	20 th January 2025
	24 th March 2025

Actions from the previous meetings/additions to the work programme

- County Line – a police representative will be asked to attend.

Briefing notes requested

- Further information in relation to siblings in care - a more detailed breakdown was requested following the report presented at the meeting.
- Further information in relation to missing episodes – the panel would like to see how many episodes relate, for example, to being 10 minutes late and how many are when a child is missing for several days. (Due in January 2024)

Information circulated to Members outside of meetings - none currently.

Items included on the Forward Plan relevant to the remit of the Panel:

The remit of the panel is to secure elected member and cross-organisation support and commitment for delivering improvement services and better outcomes for looked after children, young people and care leavers:

Decision	Description	Date due	Decision Maker
SEND Analysis	For Cabinet to endorse the four projects proposed in the Delivering Better Value (DBV) application to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND and deliver value for money	15 February 2024	Cabinet

Upcoming Member Development Sessions

Please contact Helen Barnsley (Senior Democratic Services Officer) if you would like more information or if you are missing a calendar invitation. All development sessions will be held via Microsoft Teams unless otherwise stated.

Session	Date and Time

Future Meetings – 2024

- 25th March 2024 at 10am
- 1st July 2024 at 10am
- 30th September 2024 at 10am
- 18th November 2024 at 10am

2025

- 20th January 2025 at 10am
- 24th March 2025 at 10am

Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

27 February 2024

Council Plan 2022-2027 Integrated Performance Report Quarter 3 2023/24

Recommendations

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers and comments on the Integrated Performance Report for Quarter 3 2023/24 contained within this Report and Appendices.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides a retrospective summary of the Council's performance at the end of Quarter 3 (April - December 2023) against the strategic priorities and Areas of Focus set out in the Council Plan. All information contained within this report has been taken from the Quarter 3 Integrated Performance and Finance reports presented to Cabinet on 15 February 2024. The paper sets out a combined picture of the Council's delivery, performance, HR, and risk:

- performance is assessed against the Key Business Measures (KBMs) contained within the agreed Performance Management Framework (PMF) in Section 2 and [Appendix 1](#);
- progress against the Integrated Delivery Plan is summarised in Section 3 and more fully presented within [Appendix 2](#);
- management of Finance is summarised in Section 4 and more fully presented in [Appendix 3](#); and
- management of Risk is summarised in Section 5 and more detailed information is presented in [Appendix 4](#).

1.2 This summary report and the detailed performance appendices provide the complete picture of the Council's performance enabling scrutiny and transparency for the organisation, partners and the public. It enables Overview and Scrutiny Committees to consider performance within their own remits. All Members also have continual access to the Performance Management Framework (PMF) using the [Performance Portal](#) in Power BI to further monitor performance on an ongoing basis.

1.3 The approach to strategic performance reporting continues to evolve and reflect the Council's key priorities and pressures. Members will be aware of

the wealth of information and data available at both strategic and service levels. In addition, Government is developing the 'Office for Local Government' (Oflog). As such, the Council's performance framework will continue to evolve, and be streamlined to ensure that Members have the most useful performance data, including reference to Oflog metrics.

1.4 There are key themes that emerged last year that continue to be highlighted by this report, which impact the Council's current operating environment, including:

- increasing demand and costs being reported in Children & Families, Adult Social Care, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Home to School Transport and in the number of applications made through the Local Welfare Scheme.
- in these areas demand is increasing more quickly than resources, creating capacity, workload and delivery challenges; reflecting staff feedback, addressing this is a high priority for the organisation.
- continuing recruitment and retention difficulties in specific service teams including Children and Young People, Social Care and Health, Waste & Environment, Schools, Commercial and Contracts, On-Call firefighters and Planning officers; and
- a small number of services continue to experience specific challenges around staff absence levels particularly Business Support, Customer Contact and Social Care and Health.

Planned improvement activity to address these issues is described in section 4 of the report to Cabinet on 15 February 2024.

1.5 The 2023/24 PMF contains 105 KBMs, 97 of which are available for reporting in Quarter 3. The remaining 8 that are not being reported are all new measures to the PMF and not due for reporting until Year End.

There are 30 KBMs within the remit of this Committee, and 29 of those KBMs are available for reporting this Quarter. Two measures have moved to this Committee from the remit of Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee this Quarter; the % of Maintained Schools with a Deficit Budget and Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block in year forecast overspend as a % of the in-year High Needs overspend that is expected within the Dedicated Schools Grant Recovery Plan. The remaining 1 measure is a new annual measure due for reporting at Year End.

Table 1 below indicates the current assessment of performance:

Quarter	On Track	Not on Track
1	55.5% (10)	44.6% (8)
2	59.1% (13)	40.9% (9)
3	51.7% (15)	48.3% (14)

Table 1

Table 2 below indicates the Direction of Travel (retrospective comparison), however, please note not all measures have a status e.g. where they are new and there is no previous baseline:

Direction of Travel	On Track			Not on Track		
	Improving	Static	Declining	Improving	Static	Declining
Quarter 1	50%(5)	40%(4)	10%(1)	38%(3)	24%(2)	38%(3)
Quarter 2	45.5%(5)	36.4%(4)	18.2%(2)	22.2%(2)	44.4%(4)	33.3%(3)
Quarter 3	46.2%(6)	38.5%(5)	15.4%(2)	21.4% (3)	38.5%(5)	46.2%(6)

Table 2

Table 3 below indicates the future projection forecast for the next reporting period:

Forecast	On Track			Not on Track		
	Improving	Static	Declining	Improving	Static	Declining
Quarter 1	40%(4)	60%(6)	0%(0)	50%(4)	25%(2)	25%(2)
Quarter 2	15.4%(2)	69.2%(9)	15.4%(2)	55.6%(5)	44.4%(4)	0%(0)
Quarter 3	40%(6)	60%(9)	0	28.6%(4)	35.7%(5)	35.7%(5)

Table 3

- 1.6 At Quarter 3, with a refreshed PMF and based on percentages the overall position is a slight decline on the position at Quarter 2, where 59.1% of KBMs were reported as On Track compared to 51.7% at Quarter 3. Due to annual measures being available and the two measures detailed into 1.5 moving into the remit of this Committee, there are more measures being reported on at Quarter 3 (29) than Quarter 2 (22). This means that there are more On Track measures this Quarter (15) than compared to Quarter 2 (13), showing good

progress in some areas. However, there are also more Not on Track measures this Quarter (14) than compared to Quarter 2 (9). Many of the challenges outlined in 1.4 affect the metrics in this area, and there is a continuing volatile, uncertain, and high-risk operating environment adding challenge. [Appendix 1](#) details information for all measures within the PMF, including reasons why some measures are not being reported. Detailed measure-by-measure performance reporting is accessible through the [Performance Portal](#).

- 1.7 The position is positive in terms of delivery of the 41 actions within the remit of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in the Integrated Delivery Plan. 61% are On Track, 22% At Risk or Compromised, 2% not started and a further 15% now completed. It is these actions which are reported on in [Appendix 2](#) on an exception basis.
- 1.8 At the end of Quarter 3 the services that come within the remit of Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee are reporting an unprecedented level of overspend of £12.481m (after the use of earmarked reserves is taken into account) equivalent to 13.3% of its revenue budget. This is primarily driven by and related to two main areas: children's placements (including the Council's own children's homes) and staffing. Savings targets are forecast to be under-achieved by £1.831m whilst 60.5% of the current capital schemes forecasting a delay. The forecast overspend is being addressed with unprecedented seriousness and effort by the Director and the Senior Leadership Team. Details of the forecast as well as the management action included in the Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring report and annexes.
- 1.9 During the preceding periods, a risk working group was convened to review and refresh the strategic risks that face the Council in the pursuit of its priorities. This work has resulted in a smaller number of high-level cross cutting risks being established. In Quarter 3, those risks have been reviewed, refined again and the mitigations updated. Strategic risks which are aligned, but not exclusively, to the work of this committee include:
 - mismatch between demand and resources (high); and
 - being unable to keep children & vulnerable adults safe (medium).
- 1.10 At a more detailed service level, 85 risks are currently being monitored, 15 of which relate to the work of this Committee. Service risks are being reviewed and refreshed across the Council to ensure that they are reflective of the current environment, priorities and plans and to ensure that appropriate mitigations are in place. Further detail relating to strategic and service risks is included in Section 5 below.
- 1.11 There is a wider context that continues to impact all aspects of the Council's work, including industrial action across many sectors, the legacy impact of the pandemic, global conflict, high inflation and interest rates and the resulting fiscal challenges are impacting the communities of Warwickshire. Such a combination of events at a global and national level creates 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 medium-term national policy direction in a number of key areas of our work. Performance reporting will continue to track and highlight our delivery and performance and inform prioritisation of activity and resources.

- 1.12 A reprioritisation of the Integrated Delivery Plan (IDP) is underway and a refresh of the PMF will follow for reporting in 2024/25. It is anticipated that both the IDP and the PMF will be simplified to focus on the key priorities ensuring we grip and improve the drivers of cost pressures to maintain service and financial resilience. Service Business Plans and performance measures will evolve to reflect the more strategic approach at Council level.

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 themes that will help the Council to be known as 'a Great Council and Partner'. The full performance summary is contained in [Appendix1](#).
- 2.2 Comprehensive performance reporting is enabled through the Power BI Performance Portal as part of the Performance Management Framework. Where applicable, some performance figures may now have been updated on the Power BI reporting system. The number of reportable measures will change each quarter as the framework considers the availability of new data.
- 2.3 Of the 29 KBMs which are being reported at Quarter 3, 51.7% (15) are On Track and 48.3% (14) are Not on Track.
- 2.4 Notable aspects of positive performance for specific measures include:
- The % of 3- and 4-year-old children accessing their entitlement to 15 hours per week of government funded early years provision has moved above the target of 96% to 97%. This is in comparison to the estimated national average take up of 94%. This is due to proactive work promoting places and developing new places in line with demand. An increased mix of provision allows more parents to choose the type of provision that they require to meet their families' needs.
 - Warwickshire's latest data on young people participating in education, employment or training is positive. The % of 16 –17-year-olds participating in education and training is 94.5%, compared to a target of the national average, which was 92.3%. Through the Council's support to local areas in monitoring figures and developing the offer for young people it is expected that strong performance in this area will continue over the next year.

2.5 There are a number of performance challenges this Quarter:

- The two measures for the % of in-year applications with a school place offered within the target of 10 school days and within the statutory deadline of 15 school days have both moved to Not on Track, despite being On Track last Quarter. This is due to the necessary use of the Fair Access Protocol leading to timescales being extended in some cases. Every Local Authority must have a Fair Access Protocol which is a mechanism developed by the local authority that aims to ensure that vulnerable children, and those who are having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, are allocated a school place as quickly as possible. It is utilised when suitable places are not available at schools within a reasonable distance (approximately 3 miles or less).
- There is a national upward trend in the percentage of children who are overweight or very overweight in year 6. With 35.2% of all year 6 children being overweight, including obese, Warwickshire was slightly better than the England average of 36.6%. There were disparities in the region, with the highest figures in Warwickshire seen in Nuneaton & Bedworth (40.7%) and North Warwickshire (38.3%). There is a support offer for children in Warwickshire delivered through Health Visiting and the School Health and Wellbeing Services, targeted at high priority families, communities and schools. This includes a pilot offering free school meals using Tackling Social Inequalities Funding to all primary school aged children in Creating Opportunities area schools. Creating Opportunities is Warwickshire County Council's unique brand name used for projects and plans associated with Levelling Up, reducing inequalities, increased social mobility and Community Powered Warwickshire. There is also an enhanced offer of support for high-priority schools (based on Body Mass Index and Indices of Multiple Deprivation scores) through the school health and wellbeing service, Connect for Health's, Healthy Lifestyles offer. It is expected that the impact of Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis on child activity levels and nutrition will show in the national and regional weight data for several years.
- The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs % overspend compared to DSG recovery plan is at 260.74% and remains a significant challenge due to demand and individual unit costs continuing to rise above expectations, and the wider national systemic issues relating to SEND. There are a variety of contributing reasons including increased expenditure on Special Schools top up funding, Independent School places and Alternative Provision. Although the Council continues to work with the Department for Education on the Delivering Better Value programme to mitigate this risk, it is highly unlikely it will prevent growing long-term overspends in the absence of a fundamental national solution to the SEND system and its funding.
- Another broader area of challenge is the 'Deliver our Child Friendly Warwickshire strategy - Happy, healthy, safe children' Area of Focus. This has been highlighted at every Quarter in the 2023/24 reporting year, and

this Quarter 6 of the 7 measures in the area are Not on Track. This follows a period of previously improving performance related to numbers of Children in Care and those with an open Child in Need category over the 2022/23 reporting year. The decline in performance can be attributed to an increase in demand from people requesting and accessing services within the period due to the cost-of-living crisis, alongside rising numbers of teenagers with social, emotional and mental health needs. This increased demand is expected to continue. This has resulted in a rise in caseloads for some key teams. It should be noted that targets have been reviewed this year and are more challenging.

- 2.6 For 27 of the reported measures there is enough trend data available to ascertain a Direction of Travel. For the measures that are On Track and with enough trend data to show a Direction of Travel the majority (84.6%) of which are either improving or static. For the measures that are Not on Track with a Direction of Travel the majority (78.6%) are either static or declining (see table 2).
- 2.7 All 29 reported KBMs have a forecast projection from the responsible service for the forthcoming period (see table 3). Of the measures that are forecast to be On Track at Year End, the majority at 60% (9) are forecast to remain static, with the remainder (40% or 6 measures) forecast to improve. Of those that are forecast to be Not on Track, there is an almost even split between declining (5), static (5) and improving (4) performance.

Of those that are forecast to be Not on Track, the following are forecast to decline further at the next reporting period, and full details can be found within [Appendix 1](#) and the [Performance Portal](#):

- % 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;
 - % of Year 6 children (aged 10-11 years) who are overweight including obese;
 - Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block (HNB) in year forecast % overspend compared to the DSG Recovery Plan; and
 - % of Maintained Schools with a Deficit Budget.
- 2.8 A set of high-level, cross-cutting, long-term Warwickshire Outcome Measures, which the Council can influence but is not solely responsible for, are reported in a State of Warwickshire reporting dashboard, which includes Levelling Up and Cost-of-Living metrics. A summary position will be included in the Year End Integrated Performance Report.

3 Progress against the Integrated Delivery Plan

- 3.1 The Integrated Delivery Plan aligns priority activity from across all service areas to the agreed 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 190 actions within the Integrated Delivery Plan, 41 are attributable to the Children's Social Care OSC. At the end of this Quarter 61% of activities are On Track to achieve their objectives within the set timeframes. Seven percent of activities are At Risk, 15% are Compromised, 2% not started and a further 15% have now been Completed. Exceptions are covered in [Appendix 2](#).

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 Quarter 3 Finance Monitoring Report presented to Cabinet on 23rd January 2024.
- 4.2 The headline revenue forecast reported the end of the third quarter is £14.179m (15.1%), however, once funding has been transferred from earmarked reserves, the adjusted remaining service variance is £12.481m (13.3%).

Metric	Target	Service	Performance at Q3 2023/24
Performance against the latest approved revenue budget as measured by forecast under/overspend	On budget or no more than 2% underspent	Children & Families	14.9% overspend
		Education – Non-DSG	0.40% overspend
Performance against the approved savings target as measured by forecast under/overachievement	100%	Children & Families	37.0%
		Education – Non-DSG	71.8%
Performance against the approved capital programme as measured by forecast delays in delivery	No more than 5% delay		-4.8%

5 Management of Risk

- 5.1 Over the preceding months, a risk management working group was established to consider strategic risks and elements of the Strategic Risk Management Framework (the Framework). The working group proposed a smaller number of high-level cross cutting strategic risks, which were agreed by Corporate Board as part of the Q2 risk review process. During Q3, adjustments have been made to the strategic risks to primarily refine and enhance the mitigations.
- 5.2 Risks are monitored in risk registers at a strategic level and at service level. At a strategic level the following risks are more related to the work of this committee, whilst also being relevant for other Overview & Scrutiny Committees:
- mismatch between demand and resources (high); and
 - being unable to keep children & vulnerable adults safe (medium).
- 5.3 Mitigating controls are in place in respect of this risk and include the Council Plan, which has driven priority initiatives. An associated Council Delivery Plan is being developed to operate from April 2024 replacing the Integrated Delivery Plan. A Children & Families Service Plan, inter-agency guidance in line with statutory duties and a multi-agency training plan to help ensure sound arrangements to protect children are in place. A Children & Families continuous improvement plan is being developed to enhance progress.
- 5.4 At a service level, there are 15 risks recorded against services relating to Children and Families and Education Services. This report is aimed at highlighting any key risks at service level and specifically where risks are red (high risk) and the risk level has been higher than the risk target for 3 quarters or more and currently three points or more above target. There are currently no such risks. To highlight the key risks, a table of both red risks and amber risks above target is provided at [Appendix 4](#).
- 5.5 There is one risk that is red: Increased demand on statutory services within SEND linked to the High Needs Block, which is being monitored and the controls updated as necessary. The Council is participating in the Department for Education programme Delivering Better Value and this shows a year by year increase in demand through the next five years with more children being placed in specialist provision, with the schools struggling to meet the need and the expectation is that unit costs will rise. The Council has applied for grant funding to take action to help mitigate this, will continue to lobby Government officials and expansion to two special schools has been agreed by Cabinet and is to be implemented by September 2024 and September 2025 respectively.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

7 Environmental Implications

7.1 None arising directly from 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 15 February 2024

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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'. These are detailed in the table below alongside the number of KBMs that will be used to assess delivery, and the number being reported this Quarter.

Area of Focus	No. of KBMs	No. of KBMs available for reporting this Quarter
Create vibrant places with safe and inclusive communities	8	8
Deliver major infrastructure, digital connectivity and major transport options	17	14
Promote inclusive, sustainable economic growth, successful business, good quality jobs and future skills	9	9
Tackle climate change, promote biodiversity and deliver on our commitment to Net Zero	7	4
Deliver our Child Friendly Warwickshire strategy - Happy, healthy, safe children	7	7
Through education, improve life opportunities for children, young people and those with special educational needs and disabilities	21	20
Support people to live healthy, happy, and independent lives and work with partners to reduce health inequalities	21	20
A Great Council and Partner	No. of KBMs	No. of KBMs available for reporting this Quarter
Harnessing community power	3	3
Our people and the way we work	8	8
Using our data and digital solutions to improve service delivery	4	4

1.3 **Key Insights for Quarter 2 2023/24**

There are 30 KBMs in total that are in the remit of this Committee. 29 KBMs are being reported on this Quarter. Chart 1 details the reported status of these 29 KBMs. The remaining 1 measure is a new annual measure due for reporting at Year End.

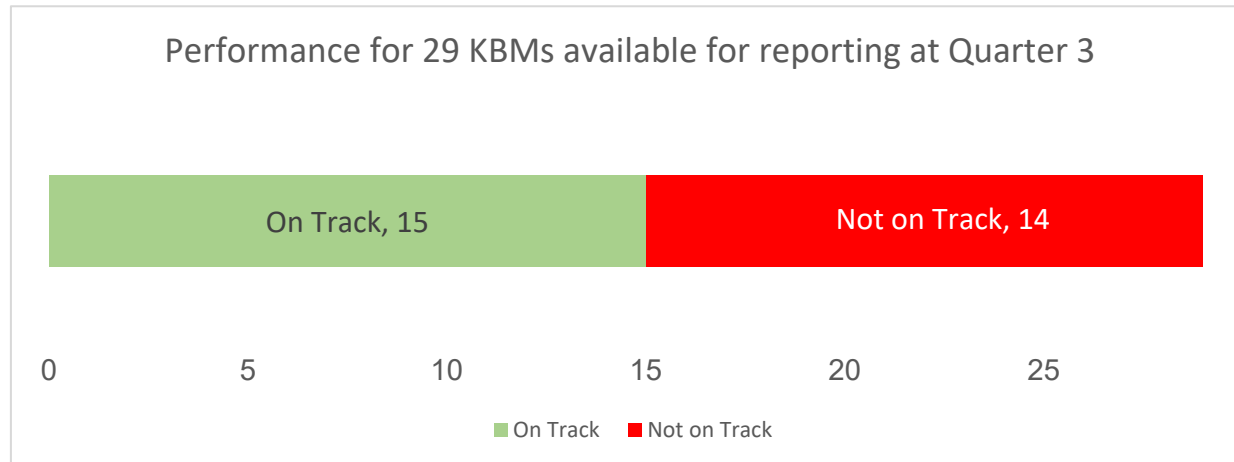


Chart 1

Chart 2 details the overall Direction of Travel for the KBMs being reported this Quarter. There are 27 KBMs where there is sufficient data at this time to determine a Direction of Travel.

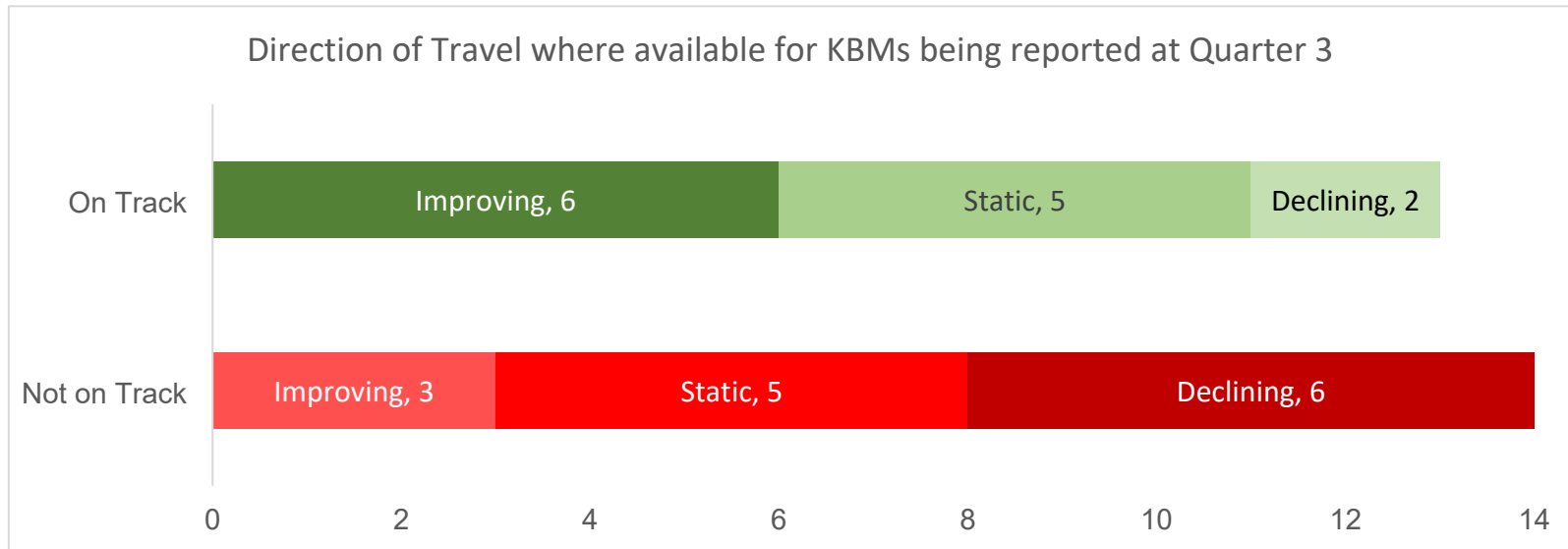


Chart 2

Chart 3 details the projected performance based on the service forecast of the 29 reported KBMs at the next Quarter.

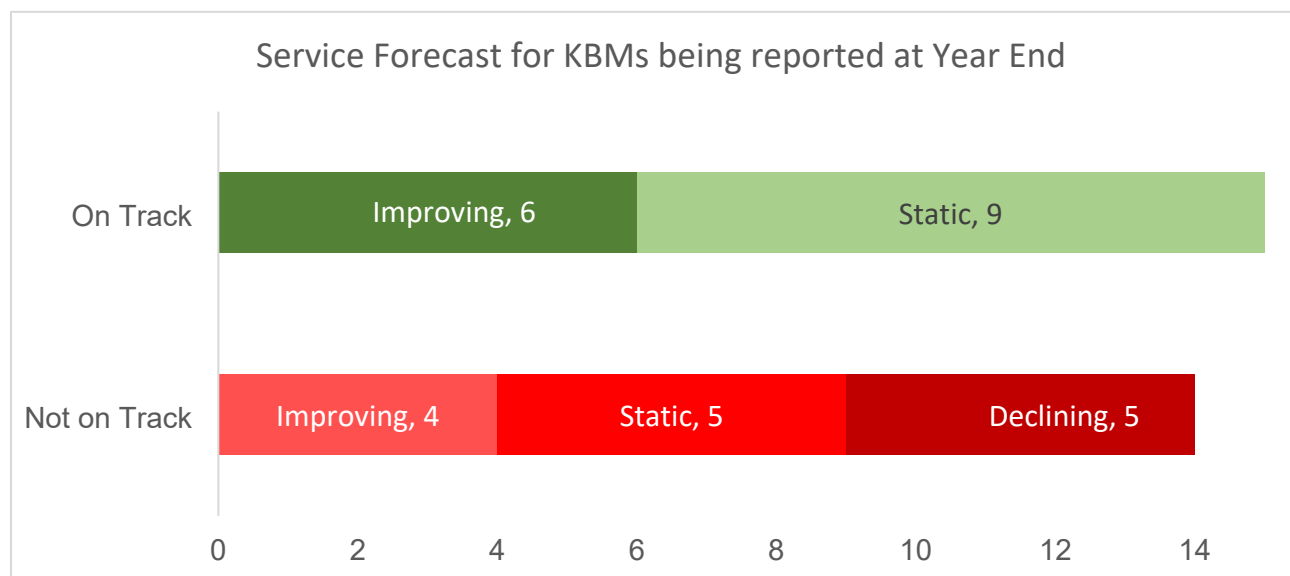


Chart 3

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.
- Direction of Travel is an indication of whether performance is improving based on trend data where available.
- not all measures have targets, and the approach now is to have improving performance and targets where appropriate, where there is no target, the table is populated with N/A; 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 Actual	Target	Measure Status	Direction of Travel	Service Forecast for next period
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% of year 6 children (aged 10-11 years) who are overweight including obese	35.2	TBD	Not on Track	Declining	Not On Track Performance Declining
No. of hospital admissions as a result of self-harm (10-24 years), rate per 100,000 of the population	572.6	N/A	Not on Track	Static	Not on Track Performance Improving
No. of under 18 hospital admissions for alcohol, per 100,000 population	41.1	35	Not on Track	Static	Not on Track Performance Improving
No. of children subject to a Child Protection Plan	396	330	Not on Track	Static	Not On Track Performance Remaining Static
No. of children with an open Child in Need category including Child Protection Plans and Children in Care	3,674	3,400	Not on Track	Improving	Not on Track Performance Remaining Static
No. of Children in Care excluding unaccompanied asylum-seeking children	680	670	On Track	Static	On Track Performance Remaining Static
% of care leavers (Relevant and Former Relevant 16-21) engaged in education, employment and training	46	70	Not on Track	Declining	Not on Track Performance Remaining Static

At Quarter 3, 6 out of 7 reported measures are Not on Track, compared to 6 out of 6 at Quarter 2 (% of year 6 children who are overweight including obese is an additional annual measure being reported at Quarter 3). Under target performance can be attributed to an increase in demand from people requesting and accessing services within the period due to the cost-of-living crisis, alongside rising numbers of teenagers with emotional and mental health needs. Although mitigations are being put in place to improve Children in Care numbers, improvements are not expected to be realised within these metrics by the next reporting period.

Improvement activity as figures are now increasing following a period of strong and improving performance:

- [No. of children with an open Child in Need category including Child Protection Plans and Children in Care](#)
- [No. of children subject to a Child Protection Plan](#)

Improvement activity as there is a declining performance is forecast due to the long-term impact of Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis on child activity levels and nutrition:

- [% of year 6 children \(aged 10-11 years\) who are overweight including obese](#)

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

Measure Name	Actual	Target	Measure Status	Direction of Travel	Service Forecast for next period
Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block in year forecast overspend as a % of the in year High Needs overspend that is expected within the Dedicated Schools Grant Recovery Plan	260.74	0	Not On Track	Declining	Not On Track Performance Declining
% of Maintained Schools with a Deficit Budget	18.85	N/A	Not On Track	Declining	Not On Track Performance Declining
% of Early Years providers graded as Good or Outstanding	96	In line with or better than national average (96)	On Track	Static	On Track Performance Remaining Static
% uptake of places for eligible 2-year-olds	82	85	Not On Track	Static	Not On Track Performance Improving
% of children accessing 3- & 4-year-old entitlement	97	96	On Track	Static	On Track Performance Improving
% of Good and Outstanding Maintained Primary Schools	92	In line with or better than national average (92)	On Track	Improving	On Track Performance Remaining Static
% of Key Stage 2 children looked after achieving the expected standard for combined reading, writing and maths	29	In line with or better than national average (32)	On Track	Declining	On Track Performance Remaining Static
% of Key Stage 4 children looked after achieving grades 5 or above in English and Maths GCSE	16	In line with or better than national average (14)	On Track	Improving	On Track Performance Remaining Static
% of families at reception transfer that are awarded one of their first three choice preferences	97	In line with or better than national average (98.3)	On Track	Declining	On Track Performance Improving
% of families at Year 7 transfer that are awarded one of their first three choice preferences	94.4	In line with or better than national average (94.1)	On Track	Static	On Track Performance Remaining Static
No. of additional school class places offered based on actual Primary and Secondary offers	934	N/A	On Track	N/A insufficient trend data	On Track Performance Remaining Static
% of in year applications that have a school place offered within the target deadline of 10 school days	83	95	Not On Track	Improving	Not On Track Performance Declining
% of in year applications that have a school place offered within the statutory deadline of 15 school days	88	100	Not On Track	Improving	Not On Track Performance Declining

Measure Name	Actual	Target	Measure Status	Direction of Travel	Service Forecast for next period
% of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan attending mainstream school	33	N/A	Not on Track	Static	Not On Track Performance Improving
% of education settings engaged with the support available to them through the Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy	30	50	New annual measure due for reporting at Year End		
% of 16-17 years olds participating in education and training	94.5	In line with or better than national average (92.3)	On Track	Improving	On Track Performance Improving
% of 16–17-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	1.7	In line with or better than national average (2.8)	On Track	Improving	On Track Performance Improving
% of 16 -17-year-olds with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known	3.5	In line with or better than national average (10.1)	On Track	Improving	On Track Performance Remaining Static
% of 16 -17-year-olds with Special Education Needs or Disabilities (SEND), who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known	10.3	In line with or better than national average (9.3)	On Track	Static	On Track Performance Improving
% 16 –17-year-olds participating in an apprenticeship	5.2	In line with or better than national average (4.7)	On Track	Improving	On Track Performance Improving
No. of new school places created through the Education Capital Programme	535	N/A	On Track	N/A insufficient trend data	On Track Performance Remaining Static

Of the measures being reported this Quarter, the majority have remained On Track, showing overall consistent and positive performance within this area. The 2 financial measures within this Area of Focus have both remained Not on Track, with both forecast to decline further over the next reporting period. The in-year applications measures have also moved from On Track to Not on Track, due to necessary use of the Fair Access Protocol leading to timescales being extended in some cases.

Area of Good Progress due to take up reaching and exceeding the target:

- % of children accessing 3- & 4-year-old entitlement

Area of Good Progress due to strong performance compared to the national average:

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

Improvement activity again this Quarter due to a variety of reasons including overspends on Independent School places, Specialist Resource Provision and post 16 provision causing significant pressure on the High Needs Block:

- Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block in year forecast overspend as a % of the in year High Needs overspend that is expected within the Dedicated Schools Grant Recovery Plan.

Improvement activity due to the in-year application metrics now being Not on Track and showing a slight decline, due to the necessary use of the Fair Access Protocol:

- % 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.

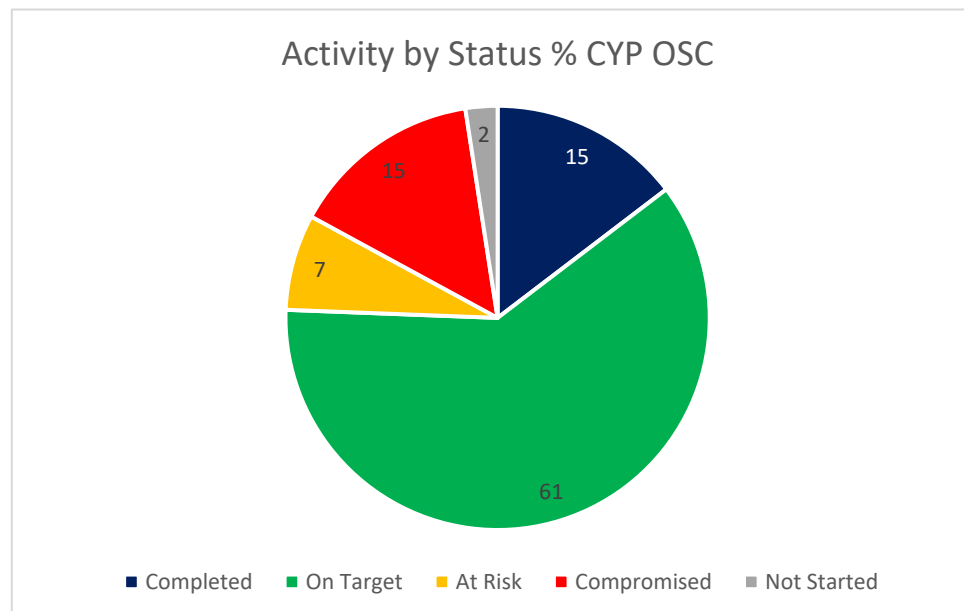
Measure Name	Latest Figure	Target	Measure Status	Direction of Travel	Service Forecast for next period
No. of suicides for those aged 10 & over, directly standardised rate per 100,000 population	11.2	9.2	Not on Track	Declining	Not on Track Performance Remaining Static
% of those aged 15-24 screened for chlamydia	12.4	15.2	Not on Track	Declining	Not on Track Performance Remaining Static

Both measures within this area are reported as Not on Track due to being above the set targets. It is not expected that improvement activity will have a significant impact on the data by the next time of reporting.

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

1.1 Key Insights for Quarter 3 2023/24

Of the 190 actions within the Integrated Delivery Plan, 41 are attributable to the Children & Young People OSC. At Quarter 3 61% of activities are On Track to achieve their objectives within the set timeframes. 22% of activities are At Risk or Compromised, and a further 15% are complete. Two percent have yet to start.



The following activity has been completed this Quarter;

- 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.**
This work is now complete.
- Deliver the strategy and action plan with partners to support young people in Nuneaton to achieve higher educational attainment and outcomes including Offer online Autism training sessions for all Nuneaton schools.**
Autism training completed, the work of the Nuneaton Education Strategy continues alongside the Nuneaton and Bedworth BC Levelling up place plan.
- Deliver the strategy and action plan with partners to support young people in Nuneaton to achieve higher educational attainment and outcomes including: All Nuneaton schools to engage with year long CPD programme on Raising Attainment for disadvantaged learners.**

Challenging Education programme sessions are taking place with all Nuneaton schools signed up.

- **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.**

DfE has recognised good progress on this measure at joint monitoring meeting with Parent Carer Voice. It has been agreed that the future focus will be on how we work together (in line with Working Together Charter) on the Delivering Better Value programme.

- **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.**

DfE has recognised good progress on this measure. As part of the new Delivering Better Value Programme, Inclusion Framework has been agreed as one of four priorities. The new deliverable will be to rollout the Inclusion Framework to more schools to improve SEND Support in schools.

- **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.**

DfE has recognised good progress on this measure. As part of the new Delivering Better Value Programme, Workforce Development has been agreed as one of four priorities. The new deliverable will be to design and deliver a new workforce development plan to help maintain places in mainstream schools for children with Education Health Care plans.

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

Activity	Status	Narrative
Implement a family help approach, to enable more children to receive support earlier from the early help team, particularly for children under the age of five years old.	Compromised	Positively there has been a rise in Children open to Early Help and we have met our target in terms of the number of children. However, there remains improvements needed to see a further demonstrable increase in 0-5 open to Early Help. The issues relate to early years, Children & Family Centres and health visitor/midwifery performance. We are still working with commissioners in services to look at how we support providers to increase their initiation of plans for younger children.
Increase access to Early Help and Targeted Youth Work: Open the new Youth Centre in Bedworth.	Compromised	Awaiting recommendations from Property Services to identify an alternative location. In the interim we have deployed detached workers in the area, and we have given some grants to Voluntary

		and Community Sector organisations to provide additional support in Bedworth.
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.	Compromised	<p>Capital Work to Youth Centres has been delayed. Our application to the National Youth Endowment Fund was not successful but we have clear plans for the development of the centre in North when funding is available.</p> <p>In the South for the Lillington Centre, there is a need for an extensive survey to consider options, a requirement for coproduction of any future changes with young people and with the local community, as well as how the centre can make use of the space and connect with the children's centre and tenant boxing club on site. A plan will be brought together to how property services and the children and families service can locate resources and funding to progress the project.</p>
Improve stability and outcomes for young offenders, children in care and care experienced young people: Increase the number of Warwickshire foster carers by 2% by 2027.	At Risk	The market for recruiting foster carers continues to be a real challenge, we continue to see an increase in connected persons carers. There is a targeted recruitment campaign which is very proactive.
Improve stability and outcomes for young offenders, children in care and care experienced young people: Open our own Children's Homes, identify, purchase, engage with community and seek registration to have five homes, providing a home in total for 20 children.	At Risk	Cherry Tree 4 bed home is operational, building work at home in Leamington has been completed, awaiting registration, needs a registered manager. Homes in North one bedroom home is ready awaiting registration and after final building work of our other home we will await registration.
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 mental health and emotional wellbeing support for vulnerable children and young people within Residential Care settings	At Risk	<p>The multiagency crisis dashboard has been completed and is review for circulation. Overall highlights show an increase in crisis activity across the pathway with increasing community demand.</p> <p>Work is ongoing with Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership Trust to develop a mental health support offer for foster carers, other professionals and children in the WCC residential homes. The</p>

		intention is to vary the current Rise contract and have a new service in place in April 2024, but this has been delayed and is now going to start in August 2024.
Improve data maturity and embed a performance culture, by implementing data sharing and multi-agency dashboards to enable early help.	At Risk	The team are undertaking a Current State Assessment & Gap Analysis to add to existing discovery.

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

Activity	Status	Narrative
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.	Compromised	Reports to go to Cabinet in February 2024 regarding refreshed plans and financial sustainability.
Delivery of the Education Capital Programme including Queen Elizabeth secondary school expansion (North Warwickshire – Atherstone)	Not Started	Project delayed but places being offered via school. Trust need to sign off on Private Finance Initiative related to a previous re-build scheme before project can commence - expected this month. Further cost exercise with contractor will be needed given delays with plans to be on site March/April for September delivery.
Delivery of the Education Capital Programme including Stratford upon Avon School secondary school expansion (Stratford District)	Compromised	Due to cost profile of the scheme, a new contractor has been procured and the overall scheme which became delayed has been re-profiled. Current capacity being met on existing school site and new revised schedule will ensure two more forms of entry are provided by September 2024 using a combination of temporary provision and existing block accommodation. The

		project will be formally completed within the academic year 2024-25.
Delivery of the Education Capital Programme including Myton Gardens new primary school (Warwick District)	Compromised	Due to the cost profile of the scheme, a new contractor has been procured and the scheme has been delayed. Pupils will be educated at the new Oakley school allowing Myton Gardens to open and the new physical school building will be completed before September 2025.

2 The following activities are On Track

Activity
Continue to identify and protect children at risk of abuse and neglect: Provide early intervention education in schools to children about protective behaviours, to prevent exploitation.
Continue to identify and protect children at risk of abuse and neglect: Continue to embed restorative practice and provision of support to families, which avoids the need to initiate Court process.
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. Review findings of the evaluation of the differentiated diagnosis project for children awaiting autism diagnostic assessment and implement recommendations.
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 school’s programme.
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.
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.

Improve the health of children and young people in Warwickshire: Deliver the Child Accident Prevention work programme in partnership with key stakeholders.

Develop long-term commissioning options and future delivery models for the Healthy Child Programme and Children and Family Centres in order to maximise the potential for integration, improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people and reduce health inequalities.

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.

Work with our local universities, colleges, schools and partners to improve young people's aspiration for further and higher education opportunities including Continue to work with schools and employers to improve careers education and activities to help raise awareness and understanding of the many and various jobs and career opportunities available across Warwickshire.

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 Provide next round of curriculum network sessions between secondary subject leaders and primary teachers.

Ensure high quality school places are provided across the County where they are needed by: Developing a refreshed Education sufficiency strategy bringing together early years, 5-16, post 16 & SEND to meet the projected demand for 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.

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.

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.

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).

Develop and establish Warwickshire's Education Strategy with stakeholder engagement on the draft Strategy during Summer 2023 and final Council approval December 2023.

Develop and embed a multi-agency county-wide strategic approach to improving school attendance by embedding attendance into appropriate strategies and delivery plans across the council to ensure other teams and stakeholders take ownership and responsibility for pupil attendance.

Delivery of the Education Capital Programme including Oakley School – new all through school with nursery (Warwick District).

Develop and launch our new Skills Strategy (a sub-set to our economic strategy) setting out how we will work with the education and training sector and businesses to raise awareness and understanding of the wide range of careers options available in the county, and the various routeways into these employment opportunities.

Deliver initiatives to improve how users of our services can have a better experience of interacting with the Council. Our initial focus will be on improving the following - Admissions: Implement an improvement plan for school admissions to ensure that our statutory responsibilities are followed and that the Service has improved business continuity and resilience.

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Appendix 3 Management of Financial Risk

1.1 The table below details performance against the latest approved revenue budget as measured by forecast overspend, further information and reasons for variances can be found in the Quarter 3 Finance Monitoring report presented to Cabinet on 23rd January 2024.

Service Area	Approved Budget	Forecast Spend	(Under) /Overspend	% Change from Budget	Represented by:		
					Investment Funds	Impact on Earmarked Reserves	Remaining Service Variance
					£m	£m	£m
Children & Families	83.462	97.317	13.855	16.6%	0.926	0.495	12.434
Education Services - Non-DSG	10.551	10.875	0.324	3.1%	0.015	0.262	0.047
Total	94.013	108.192	14.179	15.08%	0.941	0.757	12.481

This large and unprecedented forecasted overspend is primarily driven by and related to the two main budget blocks for Children & Families – Childrens Placements (including WCC Homes) and staffing. Details are provided in the Q3 Finance monitoring report.

In response to the forecast overspend that emerged at Quarter1 Corporate Board developed an action plan aiming to contain and minimise the 2023/24 overspend, ensure the nature and impact of pressures is understood and key staff members as well as elected members are engaged in identifying solutions and developing long term transformation plans.

As part of the Financial Recovery Strategy all Directors with a forecast overspend have been asked to develop a Financial Recovery Plan. A Children & Families Finance Recovery Plan has been developed including 24 (and growing) proposals/actions concentrating (though not exclusively) on the major overspends mentioned above.

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

Saving Proposal	Target £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.	118	118	0	
New ways of working - Expected reductions in staff travel, room hire, client travel and expenses from new ways of working post-Covid.	92	0	92	Significant overspend on staff travel is preventing the achievement of this saving.
Right size Children's and Families budgets - Remove contingency budget for Early Help and replace boarding school budget with existing budget in Children's Services.	264	264	0	
Reduce spend on Residential Care - Reduce the cost of care/services including the increased use of WCC homes, boarding schools and residential schools.	1,400	0	1,400	Significant overspend forecast on residential care spend, please refer to Q3 monitoring report for details of the current issues and planned actions.
Legal Services - Reduce the cost of legal services through risk-based decision-making as to when legal advice is sought.	100	0	100	
Training - Reduction in the cost and amount of training we commission externally.	100	100	0	
Youth and Community Centres - Increase income from third party use.	50	0	50	Rising premises running costs due to double digit inflation have increased costs which is believed could not be passed onto third parties without even greater loss of income.

Saving Proposal	Target £m	Forecast £m	Shortfall/ (Overachievement) £m	Reason for financial variation and any associated management action
Section 17 payments - Reduce section 17 payments and seek alternative funding routes.	30	0	30	There is an overall section 17 overspend, linked to supporting homeless families. These families have been assessed as not entitled to housing from the Housing Department of the relevant district council and we have been unable to find them low-cost housing in the private sector or connected others to live with. Supporting the families in this manner is better for the children and a lower cost than bringing them into care. The team will continue to try and find the lowest cost housing for the small number of families we are supporting.
Grant income - Increase in the level of grant income and its more effective use to support the core activity of the service and contribute to the service overheads.	560	560	0	
Custody - Reduce the custody budget to better align with activity.	100	0	100	Non achievement on this budget reduction is due to fluctuation of external demand. Both the number of cases and level of charges are higher compared to previous years.
Children & Families	2,814	1,042	1,772	

Saving Proposal	Target £m	Forecast £m	Shortfall/ (Overachievement) £m	Reason for financial variation and any associated management action
Vacancy factor - Application of a 2% vacancy factor/turnover allowance where not already applied.	98	50	48	The Senior Leadership team have been tasked with identifying in year permanent savings to achieve this target. Depending on the nature of these there could be just a part year effect for 2023/24
NEETs contract - More effective contracting of the service to support those not in employment, education of training.	35	35	0	
Savings on third party spend - Review of services purchased from third parties to ensure value for money.	11	0	11	The Senior Leadership team have been tasked with identifying in year permanent savings to achieve this target. Depending on the nature of these there could be just a part year effect for 2023/24
Traded income - Increased traded income from Governor and Attendance services as well as a review to modernise music services.	15	15	0	
Early Years - Reducing core budget spend by re-coding early years activity to Early Years DSG (5% permitted centrally retained element)	50	50	0	
Education (Excluding Dedicated Schools Grant)	209	150	59	

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

Service	Approved 2023-24 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	1.832	0	0	1.832	0.088	0	1.814	-4.8%

Children & Families - £0.088m:

- Children's Homes (£0.088m) - The works to create the children's homes have been reviewed and pushed back into 2024-25 due to logistical issues around the availability of contractors and various permissions.

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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 15 risks recorded against services relating to Children and Young People’s Committee related 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. This is the performance metric used for reporting on the management of risk.

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"> • 13 other risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Education) Increased demand on statutory services within SEND linked to the High Needs Block
<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) Children and young people and vulnerable adults suffer avoidable injury or death. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no associated risks

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Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy 2022

Progress Update

Recommendation

That the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the progress of the Warwickshire County Council Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy 2022 as outlined within its Delivery Plan 2023-2024.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC) with an update on the progress made to deliver the Warwickshire County Council's Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy 2022 (**Appendix 1 – Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy 2022**).

1.2 Since the last report, which was presented to the CYPOSC in Spring 2023, a deep-dive review has been undertaken to facilitate an understanding of the activity required to deliver the Strategy, along with any associated commitments or requirements, and the identification of potential future improvements. The result of this has been the creation of a Delivery Plan for 2023-24 (**Appendix 2 – WCC OELS Delivery Plan 2023-2024**) which will be reviewed and updated for 2024/25. The Delivery Plan has been regularly updated to monitor its progress.

1.3 In the period between April – December 2023 there have been a number of activities undertaken to further the progress of the strategy:

- 109 settings (43% 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.
- An online event took place in June on 'Why Teach Inside?', with 25 attendees.
- Opportunities for future sessions have been identified, which include promoting webinars available from the National Education Nature Park and Eco-Schools.
- Based wider data, internal to WCC¹, for engagement in outdoor education and learning activities, the figure to date is **51.6%** (129

¹ This includes data secured from the Country Parks team on schools that have visited their venues over the same timeframe for the strategy to date; anecdotal information obtained via colleagues with

settings out of a total of 250). This demonstrates that a culture of outdoor education and learning is being embedded across Warwickshire.

- Since April 2023, there have been 635 views of the Homepage for the website. The next highest number of views is for the Education Visits page (at 464 views), followed by the webpage on Grants and Funding (at 257 views).
- Opportunities have been identified to signpost to resources available through Adult and Community Learning, such as the Family Learning 'Let's Go Outside' packs, available for the North, Central, East and South of the county, the 'search Out Warwickshire' Directory of Leisure and Culture Activities for Families', and '50 things to do in Warwickshire' for Families.

2. Background

- 2.1. Warwickshire Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 7th December 2021. The purpose of the Strategy is to promote and coordinate outdoor education and learning opportunities to schools and education settings rather than the Council directly delivering services. The Strategy 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 ambition is, that all children and young people in Warwickshire can engage in high quality outdoor education and learning, appropriate for their age and ability.
- 2.2. An underlying principle of the Strategy is the ambition of creating a sustainable approach towards longer term delivery. The aim of which is to develop a culture within the wider education system that values outdoor education. It is envisaged that this culture will continue to grow and benefit children and young people for years to come.
- 2.3. Since the approval of the Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy 2022 work has progressed and Appendix 2 provides an overview of this.

3. Future delivery

- 3.1. The Delivery Plan will continue to be monitored throughout 2023/24 and will be refreshed for 2024-25. A key ambition will be to sustain the successful activities developed in 2023/24 which include:
 - Creating and circulating regular Outdoor Education and Learning newsletters
 - Reviewing and updating the Outdoor Education and Learning webpages

awareness of relevant activities at schools; and details of schools' PTAs (Parent and Teacher Association) or Friends of schools in receipt of WCC grant funding for outdoor education projects, whether via the Councillors' Grant Fund or the Green Shoots Fund

- Collaborating with internal stakeholders and external organisations to encourage participation in training events and generate wider networking opportunities.
- Linking with schools and education settings to encourage and further equip them to deliver Outdoor Education and Learning opportunities.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. The success of the Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy relies upon the availability of financial resources from the Council which is determined on an annual basis. In February 2024, the Council approved funding for 2024-25.

5. Environmental Implications

- 5.1 The Outdoor Education Strategy 2022 has direct environmental implications outlined within its ambitions which include:

- *That all children and young people have access to and enjoy high-quality outdoor education and learning, appropriate for their age, ability, and experience.*
- *That educators value and embed outdoor education and learning in their curriculum planning.*
- *That education settings provide regular, frequent, enjoyable, and challenging opportunities for all children and young people to learn outdoors.*
- *That 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.*

6. Supporting Information

None.

7. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

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

Appendices

Appendix 1: Warwickshire County Council's Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy - [Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy 2022](#)

Appendix 2: WCC OELS Delivery Plan 2023-2024

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

Local Member(s):

Other members:

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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Delivery Plan to 31 March 2024 (from Autumn 2023)

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

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

Strategy Objective	Action and date resolved (with RAG)	Outcome desired - and how we will measure success	Progress update
Encourage and support education settings to deliver their outdoor education and learning by providing information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update information on web hub (both public <i>and</i> schools' sites; then on quarterly basis); obtain report on hits to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities. 	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date: 43% of settings engaged as per definition in current engagement plan. • Initial mtgs held with ICT (12/07 and 14/09 with PT); 14/07 with GD in MarComs re: Mailchimp. • Comms mtg held with PC on 12/09 and 28/09) re: newsletter/subscription model; AD on 02/10 and RK on 04/10. • Initial mtg held with DB of School Effectiveness team on 14/09, then LA on 30/11. • Work underway to log potential hooks to explore with colleagues (12 mtgs held in Oct/Nov).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect case studies for use in comms / to demonstrate impact. 	Outstanding pending recruitment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create/locate and then signpost settings to a self-assessment evaluation toolkit for use with CHYP (teacher questionnaire). 	Outstanding pending recruitment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review XL database of settings to enable targeting of comms where gaps exist (focussing on those not yet engaged). 	Complete	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake Stakeholder mapping, then review Engagement Plan and Comms Plan to enable raising of awareness to <i>all</i> settings and 	Complete	
		Education leaders report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have engaged with the support available to them through the strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ % of schools engaged ○ # of hits on website ○ Reduced number of schools rated red (on XL) • They feel better equipped to deliver outdoor education and learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ # attendees at events ○ Feedback received • They have strengthened their outdoor education and learning offer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feedback received • # 3 newsletters issued per academic year (termly). • Article/s in 'Heads Up' x 3 pa. • Attendance at Headteacher weekly briefing – at least 1 (per academic year). • Attendance at Headteacher Conference - 	

	<p>different audience segments, via tailored messaging and mechanisms (Headteachers & Education Visit Coordinators - EVCs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review newsletter subscription model and what this means for metrics. Work with colleagues including those in School Effectiveness and Public Health to identify hooks moving forward and support related messaging to promote OE&L and the hub to settings (i.e. the sell – curriculum; Ofsted etc). 	<p>Complete</p> <p>In progress - ongoing</p>	<p>at least 1 pa.</p>	
<p>Develop an online directory of local outdoor venues and activity providers who offer high quality outdoor education and learning opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess gaps/opportunities (identify missing venues/providers). 	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Education leaders report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They have engaged with the support available to them through the strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of schools engaged # of hits on website Settings report use of and quality of directory (via survey). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC reviewed search facility: found that filter by type 'not useful' as functionality is provided by 'KEY WORD' search. HT mtg held with TDG and PT ICT on 14/09 to feed website limitations in to current review.
<p>Signpost online resources useful for the planning and coordination of outdoor education and learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write and issue newsletter to promote on online hub (3 p.a, one per term). Source varied content to retain interest and seek feedback on topics of interest. Review newsletter subscription model and what this means for metrics. Undertake Stakeholder mapping, then review Engagement Plan and Comms Plan to enable raising of awareness to different audience segments, via tailored messaging and mechanisms 	<p>Autumn news issued 10/11/23</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>In progress – template located 19/12/23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 3 newsletters issued per academic year. Annual survey of settings – settings report that the online directory supports their planning and coordination of OE&L. Article/s in 'Heads Up' x 3 pa. Attendance at Headteacher weekly briefing – at least 1 (per academic year). Attendance at Headteacher Conference - at least 1 pa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2023 newsletter issued 20/07; Autumn newsletter issued 10/11/23. Initial dialogue held 14/07 with GD in MarComs re: Mailchimp. Comms mtg held with PC on 12/09 and 28/09 re: newsletter/subscription model; AD on 02/10 and RK on 04/10. Initial mtg held with DB School Effectiveness on 14/09; mtg held with LA on 30/11.

	(Headteachers/Education Visit Coordinators - EVCs).			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 mtgs held in Oct/Nov with colleagues from within Education and other departments.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness with colleagues to enable them to signpost/promote OE&L hub to settings. 	In progress - ongoing		
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"> Hold online training/webinar with content targeted to differing setting types e.g. Secondary Schools. 	In progress - ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training session/webinar held. Date/location secured for annual event in June 2024; event plan developed by end March 2024. Facebook account and access reviewed with MarComs (22/09, 28/09, and 30/09). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mtgs held on 26/09 and 28/11 with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to discuss proposal for Champions scheme (shared by AC with WWT on 14/06 and their response delayed due to WWT staff turnover). Mtg held with Foundry Wood 11/09 to explore potential involvement in webinar/training. Mtg held 12/09 with PC of MarComms re: Facebook Forum; followed-up on 22/09.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for annual in person event June 2024 (e.g. at Ryton Pools). 	Outstanding pending recruitment		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and reassess proposal for teacher-led Champions scheme with support from WWT. 	Complete		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List/meet/visit settings and external providers – encourage participation in training events and wider networking opportunities 	In progress - ongoing		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Facebook Account and access. 	Complete		
Survey children and young people <i>and</i> education settings on an annual basis to understand their needs and wants of Outdoor Education and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake research with colleagues on potential barriers to engagement for settings and then test through settings' survey. 	Research in progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation held with CHYP <i>and</i> settings (survey issued to latter). <p>CHYP report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They have increasing opportunities to learn outdoors They have had increased positive experiences from engaging in outdoor activities and opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback received <p>Education leaders report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They have engaged with the support available to them through the strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of schools engaged # of hits on website Reduced number of schools rated red or amber (on XL) They feel better equipped to deliver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mtgs held with AB - CFW on 19/07, 27/07 and follow up mtg on 19/09. Received information on Participation toolkit. EOI sent to CFW to request involvement in Youth Conference on 03/11. Meeting held with LR on 03/08 (Consultation & Engagement): periodic survey (via online form – to settings; needs DLT permission). Follow-up mtg tbc with Julie Robottom re: availability of other data on
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold benchmarking survey with settings (incl. original questions and test views of online hub). 	Outstanding pending recruitment		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore benefits of holding a stall at Child Friendly Warwickshire (CFW) Conference on 3 November. 	Complete		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Shinderpaul Bhangal re: running focus groups with Youth Council. 	Outstanding pending recruitment		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with BI (Julie Robottom) to understand what existing data may be available and to establish if potential to support analysis of 	Outstanding pending recruitment		

	<p>surveys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create/locate and then signpost settings to a self-assessment evaluation toolkit for use with CHYP (teacher toolkit) - potentially a re-modelled version of CFW Participation toolkit. • Review activity following survey results. 	<p>Outstanding pending recruitment</p> <p>Outstanding pending recruitment</p>	<p>outdoor education and learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ # attendees at events ○ Feedback received • They have strengthened their outdoor education and learning offer • CHYP, including disadvantaged young pupils, are developing skills they need to flourish in life through the outdoor education and learning opportunities that they provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Impact evaluation toolkit developed and made available to settings • CHYP have the opportunity to be heard and their views contribute to developing outdoor learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ # of CHYP involved in feedback ○ Feedback received ○ Toolkit developed 	<p>impact/metrics and potential for support on data analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research underway to collate/log examples of impact evaluation.
Establish a collaborative professional development network for Leads of Outdoor Education and Learning / Education Visits Coordinators and encourage all education settings to make a commitment to actively engage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Facebook Account and access. 	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training session/webinar held: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ # of attendees • Date/location secured for annual event in June 2024; event plan developed by end March 2024. • Facebook account/access reviewed with MarComs (22/09) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mtg held with MarComs - PC on 12/09 to seek advice; followed up on 22/09 and 30/09. • Mtgs held on 26/09 and 28/11 with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to discuss proposal for Champions scheme (shared by AC with WWT on 14/06 and their response delayed due to WWT staff turnover). • Mtg held with Foundry Wood 11/09 to explore potential involvement in webinar/training.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold online training/webinar. 	Ongoing		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for annual in person event June/July 2024 (e.g. at Ryton Pools). 	Outstanding pending recruitment		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review proposal for teacher-led Champions scheme with support from WWT. 	Complete		
Promote access for disadvantaged pupils to outdoor education and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit Special school/s links with Country Parks. 	Complete	<p>CHYP report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have increasing opportunities to learn outdoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial mtgs held on 19/07, 27/07 and follow-up mtg on 19/09 with AB re: CFW's
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit/clarify production of 	Complete		

learning opportunities by signposting to advice, funding sources and best practice information on promoting inclusion	information for schools on use of PPP£ for OE&L opportunities with Head of Virtual School.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They have had increased positive experiences from engaging in outdoor activities and opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback received <p>Education leaders report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHYP, including disadvantaged young pupils, are developing skills they need to flourish in life through the outdoor education and learning opportunities that they provide Funding webpages updated. Funding guidance provided/signposting to funding sources via online hub and newsletter. Information provided on free resources available (e.g. via newsletter). 	<p>emerging approach to sponsorship and potential avenue to tap into/co-created opportunities (N.B. a One Council approach is required – mtg tbc with Janice Ogden re: WCC’s External Funding strategy; may need to raise with Commercial Delivery Group).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mtg held with JN 27/07 re: Section 106 funding and Community Infrastructure Levy as potential funding sources. Mtg held with PL of Climate Change/Sustainability on 23/08 re: Greenshoots grants scheme (now closed). Follow-up mtg scheduled on 17/11 to explore other avenues. Information log underway of potential sources of grant funding/guidance and free resources. Mtg held with CN re: HAF on 23/10. Mtg with HM on 12/10. Mtg held with CB re: Cllrs Fund on 27/10 and 27/11 clarification sought on Kind Communities Fund. Initial liaison held with JC re: SEND and mtg scheduled with TM and PF ON 30/11.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Specialist Teaching Service to explore what they know about impact of learning environment on CHYP with SEND to inform future activity. 	Complete		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain results from IMPACT YP FORUM for SEND survey on experiences of school/what could be better (closes 5 Nov 2023) to inform future activity. 	Awaiting results		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate info/best practice around inclusion (research via colleagues/settings). 	Outstanding pending recruitment		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore potential for HAF (Holidays Activities and Food Programme) funding to be used for appropriate activities at settings (via Colin Naismith). 	Done 23/10/23		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide generic guidance on funding and signpost to funding tips (e.g. via ‘Learning through Landscapes’). 	Review complete 08/12/23 - change request sent to ICT 21/12/23		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research free resources and local funding streams, signposting as appropriate e.g. liaise with Harriet Masters - Sustainable Futures; clarify funding rules for Cllrs Grant Fund given school PTAs/Friends of schools appear to be eligible); research District and Borough Council funding eligibility. Signpost to FIS. 	Ongoing – Resolved for Cllrs Fund on 27/10/23.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore potential for and implications of sponsorship 	In progress		

	opportunities with/via CFW.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore potential to seek external grants e.g. for specific training events; and corporate support to provide volunteers to create outdoor areas at settings. 	Ongoing		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the online directory to ensure it contains reference to <i>all</i> appropriate Warwickshire sites. 	Review complete 28/11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directory updated and promoted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mtg with PL held on 23/08 and 30/08. Further mtg on 5/10 with PL on Eco Schools, with RJ and TDG. Follow up mtg with PL on 17/11 to discuss Climate Ready School Grounds and links to OEd&LS. Mtg with DB on 14/09 and LA on 30/11. Member of internal Focus Group on Climate Change (via AD) as of 12/09 (for networking). First mtg on 20/11.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote local visits to teach CHYP about their local environment (access /ease) (ONS) 	On going – via newsl.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settings report use of and quality of directory (via survey). Knowledge developed of cross-cutting themes/hooks with information provided to settings via newsletter. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote awareness of how the outdoors may be used to support the curriculum and the relationship to Climate agenda. (e.g. National Education Nature Park and Climate Action Awards; and Climate Ready School Grounds - a collaboration between Learning through Landscapes and Architecture & Design Scotland.) 	Climate Ready School Grounds noted in Autumn term news	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback through annual survey shows greater awareness. Roll out plan developed for Eco Schools initiative. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network with WCC's internal Climate Change focus group to ensure joined up working, cross-promotion, and explore new ways of working together. 	Ongoing – in progress, posted 29/09, mtg 23/11/23		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the roll out of Warwickshire's Eco Schools programme and promote cross-cutting themes. 	In progress		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning visits/meetings to be held across Key Stages as appropriate to gain a wider understanding of activity organised by settings and identify good practice examples. 	Outstanding pending recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of visits/meetings held with settings. Follow-up held with schools previously contacted. Directory reviewed and updated; promoted to settings via newsletter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mtg held with Foundry Wood 11/09 to explore potential involvement in webinar/training.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact schools with whom visits already held with AC to follow-up (to 	Outstanding pending		

<p>learning opportunities</p>	<p>further explore potential for peer2peer support with settings less experienced in OE&L).</p>	<p>recruitment</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signpost settings to local facilities and organisations. 	<p>In progress via website/news.</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite visitors to CPD webinar/training session. 	<p>Outstanding pending recruitment</p>		
<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"> • Establish an internal stakeholder working group to ensure joined-up approach across WCC. 	<p>Outstanding pending recruitment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal stakeholder group established. • All District/Borough Councils contacted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mtg with Foundry Wood on 11/09. • Meeting with WWT on 26/09. • Member of WCC' internal Climate Change Focus Group as of 12/09. • Deep dive undertaken of all meeting notes/emails handed over to ascertain progress to date and to identify areas for follow-up. • Log underway of potential experts in Outdoor Education & Learning. • AC contacted Rugby Borough Council --no reply received.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop/build on external relationships established with appropriate experts in Outdoor Education & Learning (e.g. Institute of Outdoor Learning, Duke of Edinburgh scheme). 	<p>Outstanding pending recruitment</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signpost schools/settings to opportunities via District/Borough Council teams as appropriate. 	<p>In progress</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broker relationships/potential opportunities between settings –and partners organisations. 	<p>In progress</p>		
<p>Facilitate the provision by the Council and others of lifelong education and learning opportunities outdoors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore links between Outdoor Education & Learning and self-initiated personal/social/emotional skills development potential – via colleagues in Youth Service and Adult and Community Learning (ACL). 	<p>Outstanding pending recruitment</p>	<p>Education leaders report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHYP, including disadvantaged young pupils, are developing skills they need to flourish in life through the outdoor education and learning opportunities that they provide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC researched structure of Duke of Edinburgh scheme (information not yet located). Contact was made with county advisor though not known if mtg took place.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signpost ACL's Family Learning 'Let's Go Outside' packs for North, Central, East and South. 	<p>Website review complete 08/12/23</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signpost to 'Search Out Warwickshire' Directory of Leisure 	<p>Website review</p>		

	and Culture Activities for Families, as local opportunities for families and others to engage in education and learning outdoors.	complete 08/12/23		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signpost to '50 things to do in Warwickshire' for families. 	Website review complete 08/12/23		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote volunteering opportunities outdoors for YP (e.g. link to National Citizenship Service; Warwickshire CAVA). 	In progress		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore with the Skills Hub whether a potential opportunity exists to signpost YP to relevant apprenticeship opportunities. 	Outstanding pending recruitment		

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27 February 2024

Warwickshire Futures – looking ahead to 2030/40

Recommendation(s)

That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Notes the trends and themes highlighted in the 'Warwickshire Futures 2030/40' and 'Warwickshire in 2030 and beyond' reports and considers how they may relate to ongoing and future policy development; and
2. Considers the Committee's current work programme in light of the Warwickshire Futures work.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Warwickshire Futures introduces an exciting new capability to the County Council for 2024.
- 1.2 Conducted in Summer/Autumn 2023, the exercise brought together thinking, best practice and research from across the local government sector, together with the insight and intelligence from our own teams and services, to give a long-term view of some of the large-scale challenges and opportunities for Warwickshire, and Warwickshire County Council, into 2030/40, grouped into five main themes:
 - societal change;
 - community and health;
 - jobs, economy and technology;
 - environment, climate and infrastructure; and
 - transport and travel.Five priority issues have also been identified, which are detailed in 4.4.
- 1.3 Similar exercises are conducted at national and regional level and so the intention of introducing Warwickshire Futures is to provide a specific view for the County and the Council.
- 1.4 In doing so, the aim is to build a perspective on the long term, stretching past current challenges and decisions, whilst helping to ensure these are made in the context of anticipated future trends and policy direction.

- 1.5 This allows for a consideration both of future challenges, but also opportunities, giving Members and Officers the platform to consider future policy in the context of the long term.
- 1.6 This is the first time that a document such as this has been developed within the Council and it should be emphasised that the Futures work is not a precise science and nor does it present a definitive position.
- 1.7 This exercise is intended to:
- provide a snapshot in time, giving a flavour of some of the key issues and trends on the horizon;
 - create a lens on the long-term future challenges and opportunities based on this snapshot in time;
 - link these themes and make them real for the County Council in the context of Warwickshire; and
 - create a holistic resource that can be continuously updated and regularly reviewed as part of the business planning cycle.
- 1.8 There is a high level of uncertainty at the local, national and global level at the current time. Futures work is therefore indicative and open to debate and interpretation in terms of what this means for the near term as well as the longer term. As stated above, it is not a precise science and provides scenarios and options, rather than definitive outcomes.
- 1.8 In terms of actions, there are no immediate actions required, but it is hoped that the Futures work will provide the Committee with a greater insight into future trends and challenges, and the opportunity to consider this in the context of the Committee's future work programme.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report. However, specific themes and trends discussed within the report will be likely to have their own potential financial consequences.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 Whilst there are no direct environmental implications arising as a result of this report, environmental changes are themselves a major theme. As such, the exercise highlights the importance of considering environmental implications when making policy decisions in the near, medium and longer term.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The Futures exercise is made up of two main products, provided in **Appendices 1 and 2** to this report:
- “Warwickshire in 2030 and beyond”, a report from Business Intelligence which takes a data-lead approach to examine potential future changes across the county; and
 - “Warwickshire Futures 2030/40”, a detailed briefing produced by the Corporate Policy team that uses national data, research, and best practice examples to provide a long-term view of the policy landscape and impacts on the work of the Council.
- 4.2 In reaching this point the material and messages have been shared and tested with Strategy Network, Senior Leadership Forum and Corporate Board to ensure they provided a rounded and balanced view across all service areas.
- 4.3 Five priority issues have been identified that are likely to have significant impact across the organisation into 2030/40 and beyond. There is a natural synergy between these themes and with the priorities and the areas of focus set out in the Council Plan. However, it should be noted that the Futures work extends beyond this and touches more on long term, mega-trends and therefore there is not an exact match.
- 4.4 These five priority issues are:
- demographic shifts;
 - global economic and political uncertainty;
 - climate change;
 - artificial intelligence; and
 - inequalities between groups and places.
- 4.5 The 5 themes and full list of areas of analysis are set out overleaf, with full descriptions within the full report in Appendix 1. The emerging themes and trends identified of being of particular significance to the Children and Young People OSC are the following:
- changing living situations will impact on optimal service design e.g. changing family structures, decline in home ownership;
 - emerging health issues will require consideration e.g. obesity rates in children and young people, vaping, inequalities in health outcomes;
 - mental health is a growing area of need, impacting across services, we will need to consider how best to meet escalating demand and adapt services to be appropriate for children and young people who may be experiencing mental health challenges; and
 - equipping children and young people with the appropriate skills for the future, including tackling the skills gap, and education for future employment e.g. in the green economy.
- 4.6 These themes will be drawn out in more detail as a presentation to the Committee.

Societal changes	Community & Health	Jobs, economy & technology	Environment, climate and infrastructure	Transport & travel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic shifts • Global economic and political uncertainty • Deglobalisation • Changing footfall patterns in town centres • Inequalities within and between groups and places • Shifting urban/rural living patterns • Changing living situations • Ongoing impact of pandemic on educational outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce challenges • Political engagement • Public trust • Future of devolution deals and combined authorities • Long-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic • Emerging health issues • Mental health and loneliness • Governance of health and social care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital connectivity • Local energy sources • Sustainable local economy • Artificial intelligence • Future skills • Future of workspaces • Skills gap, reskilling and future employment • Town centre regeneration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public support for environmental policies • Evolving national government policy • Climate change • Alternative fuels (inc. electric charging infrastructure) • Housing pressure (green and right type) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel and transport demand • Connectivity • Energy vectors (power sources) • Autonomy • Transport infrastructure • Active travel

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 Following consideration of the reports across all Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the following activity is planned:
- integration of the Futures tool into the business planning cycle, with a 6-monthly update based on input from service leads;
 - integration into the monthly internal Policy Bites publication; and
 - access for all staff and Members to the key products via the Intranet.

Appendices

1. [Warwickshire Futures 2030/40](#)
2. [Warwickshire in 2030 and beyond, Business Intelligence report](#)

	Name	Contact Information
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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): N/A – county-wide matter

Other members:

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Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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 Voice, Influence & Change Team when appropriate)	
Integrated Performance Report	Quarterly performance updates presented to the Committee. Link to Power BI Platform	Quarterly Reports
Report Detail		Date of Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwickshire Outdoor Education Strategy • Warwickshire Futures work next steps 		27 February 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Centres • Targeted Youth Support Offer: Including Offer to Schools 		9 April 2024

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal update from Care Leavers Forum held on the 9th April • Knife Crime and Child Exploitation • Warwickshire Education Strategy 2024 – 2030 (moved from 27/02/24) • Draft Home to School Policy Update (tbc) 	18 June 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal update from Care Leavers Forum held on the 10th September • Persistent and severe absenteeism (data expected in March 2024) 	17 September 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal update from Care Leavers Forum held on the 12th November • Post-16 participation in education, employment and training performance report 2024. 	26 November 2024
	25 February 2025

Future Items to be added to the Work Programme

- Visit for the Committee to be arranged to the Warwickshire Academy (Formerly the PEARS site)

Briefing Notes circulated to the committee (please contact Helen Barnsley if you've not received one)

- Interim briefing note in relation to absenteeism to be circulated April/May '24 (Sarah T)
- ✓ Young People and The National Transfer Scheme – circulated on the 12th February 2024
- ✓ Information in relation to the Loudmouth Programme – circulated on the 15th January 2024

Briefing Notes/Information Requests

1. Request for information in relation to the recent tender for the provision of children's centres, including plans on how to improve outreach to surrounding larger villages.

Motions from Council – none currently

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

Decision	Description	Date due	Decision Maker
Warwickshire 0-25 Education Sufficiency Strategy	Refresh of the Warwickshire 0-25 Education Sufficiency Strategy	5 March 2024	Cabinet
		14 May 2024	County Council

Upcoming Member Development Sessions

Please contact Helen Barnsley (Senior Democratic Services Officer) if you would like more information or if you are missing a calendar invitation. All development sessions will be held via Microsoft Teams unless otherwise stated.

Session	Date and Time

- **Next Chair and Spokes Meeting - these meetings will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams**
 - 21 March 2024 @ 10am
- **Next Committee Meeting. These meetings will be held at Shire Hall, Warwick.**
 - 27 February 2024 @ 10am
 - 9 April 2024 @ 10am
 - 18 June 2024 @ 10am

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