



# **Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel Meeting**

Wednesday, 11 November 2020

Dear Councillor

## **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL - WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER, 2020**

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next Wednesday, 11 November, 2020 meeting of the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel, the following report that was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

<b>Agenda No</b>	<b>Item</b>
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10	<b><u>Spotlight Review - Education (Pages 3 - 14)</u></b>
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[Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services, to present report]

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the scrutiny team:

**Contact** Earl Piggott-Smith

**Tel** 01902 551251

**Email** [earl.piggott-smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:earl.piggott-smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

**Address** Scrutiny Team, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,  
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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**City priorities** **1** Children and young people get the best possible start in life

**Relighting our city:** Create more opportunities for young people

# Spotlight on education and skills

11 November 2020

## September 2020 – expanding education provision

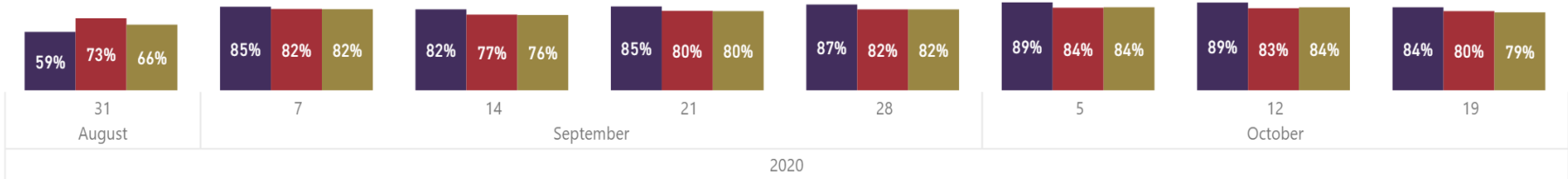
Schools and education settings have remained open throughout COVID-19 crisis:

- March-May – provision for vulnerable and key worker CYP
- June/July – re-opening schools for specific year groups
- September 2020 – provision expanded to all CYP
- To support fuller reopening a number of working groups involving schools/settings included transition arrangements at a number of phases; baseline assessments; attendance.
- Regular engagement sessions with Headteachers which involved colleagues from Public Health, Health and Safety, Human Resources.
- Review of site risk assessments.

School attendance

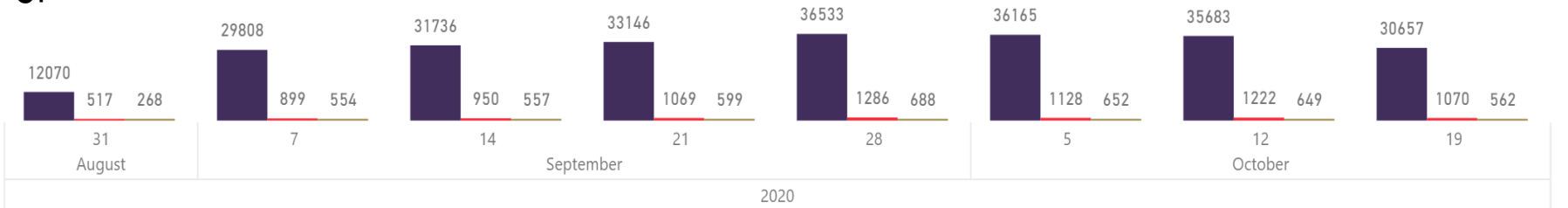
Weekly Average Attendance Rates Per Day

● Total Attendance Rate ● Total Pupils with EHCP Attendance Rate ● Total Pupils with Social Worker Attendance Rate



Weekly Average Number of Attending Pupils Per Day

● Total Attending Pupils ● Total Pupils with EHCP Attending ● Total Pupils with Social Worker Attending



## School attendance

Before September – working group set up involving Council officers and head teachers to agree measures to promote attendance:

- Pre-September communications
- Work with targeted communities – parent ambassadors
- Short-term additional education welfare officer capacity
- Agreed pathway for responding to non-attendance – working restoratively with families

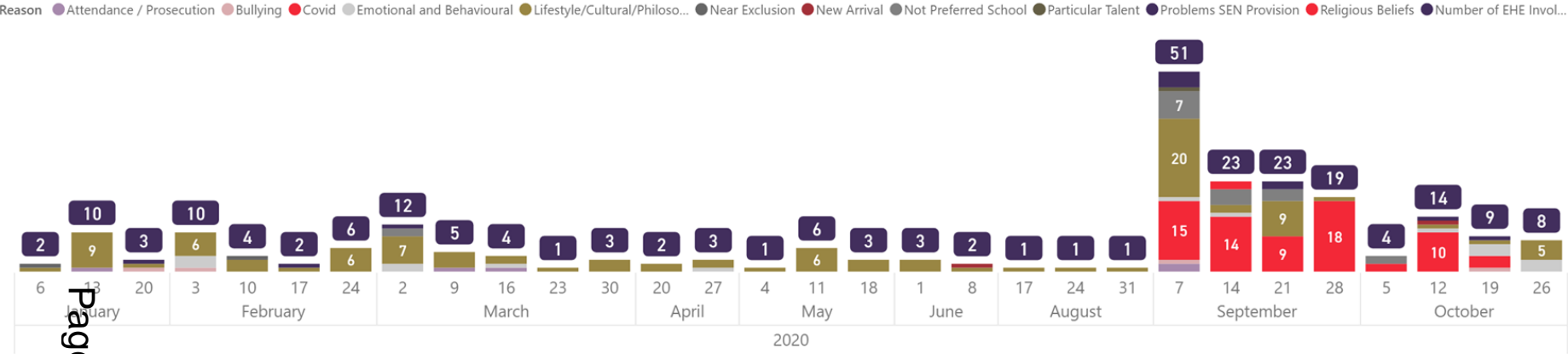
The majority of pupils have returned to school and attendance gradually increased over the first five weeks of term.

Significant changes in attendance followed up by Council officers – mostly this is due to self-isolation

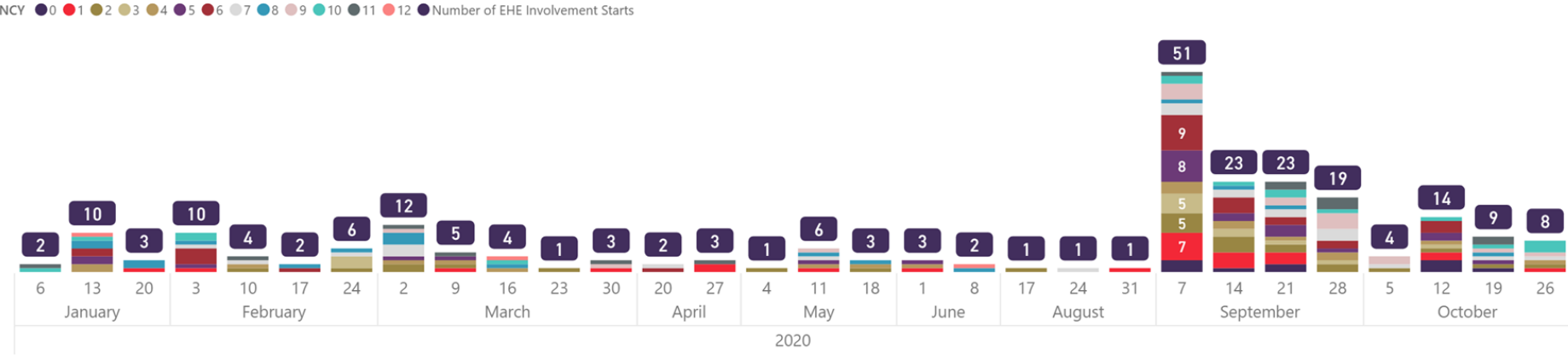
Elective home education – a significant increase.

Attendance remains mandatory (unless a child is clinically extremely vulnerable). There is a need to follow legal processes in response to persistent non-attendance.

Weekly EHE Involvement Starts



Weekly EHE Involvement Starts



## Supporting vulnerable learners

Throughout July Inclusion Service staff arranged meetings with all schools in city to identify children who might experience difficulties returning – over 600 discussed.

Workshops arranged for school staff focusing on common issues – e.g. supporting children with SEN/D; anxiety; behaviour.

Individual casework follow-up where necessary.

Wellbeing for Education Return – programme of training for all schools and colleges on supporting pupils with the impact on the pandemic on mental health and wellbeing



# COVID incident management

Page 9

Incident management team meets 3 times per week – DCS, Education, Public Health, Health & Safety

Follow-up with all positive cases from public health (local and national) and DfE

Informs action planning and comms with schools

Most cases were not transmitted in schools

Where possible, minimising numbers self-isolating

Planning for tier1-4 education restrictions

	Pupils Positive cases number	Staff Positive cases number	Total number Positive cases
Primary	67	59	126
Secondary	115	34	149
Special	2	15	17
PRUs	0	3	3
Early Years settings	6	6	12
FE (Wolves College)	6	4	10
University	31	10	41
TOTAL	227	131	358

## Remote learning

- Our Digital Divide survey has revealed that the main issue in Wolverhampton is device access
- We are using this information to target support available and to inform our approach to remote learning CPD
- We are monitoring bubble closures and alerting schools when they are able to order laptops from DfE
- We have supported schools in overcoming access challenges
- We are in regular contact with the DfE to whom we escalate challenges and support with the resolution of administrative challenges
- We have requested feedback from schools regarding the devices they have received through the DfE scheme
- We have developed a self evaluation tool to support schools in monitoring and evaluating remote learning

## Skills and youth employment

Further details are captured in the *Relighting our City* plan, but in summary:

- Expanding Wolves at Work employment programme
- Wolves WorkBox, our bespoke one stop digital hub
- Our Black Country Impact programme supports school and college students with careers advice, and support into work, an apprenticeship or further education.
- Working in partnership with the West Midlands Combined Authority to develop a youth Hub site.
- Develop a digital inclusion support package, as part of WV Online, so that young people can connect to opportunities and develop essential digital skills

## Autumn Term Half-term Free School Meals

- Local decision made to provide FSMs over October half-term to approx. 16,000 children and young people.
- Half of the schools arranged for the provision, using vouchers or buying food, reached over 9000.
- Remainder received food parcel delivery arranged by CWC during the week, over 5000
- Over 90% received provision during the week. Additional provision is still being made using vouchers.
- Local strategy to be developed for Christmas holiday with a task and finish group including Education, Procurement, ICT, Communications, City Environment.

## Questions

