

Time 5.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Executive
Venue Online

Membership

Chair Cllr Ian Brookfield (Lab)
Vice-Chair Cllr Louise Miles (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman

Quorum for this meeting is five Councillors.

Information for the Public

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

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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declaration of interests**
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 5 - 12)
[For approval]
- 4 **Matters arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting]

DECISION ITEM (RED - FOR DECISION BY THE COUNCIL)

- 5 **WV Living Business Plan and Related Decisions**
[To approve the WV Living Business Plan and Related Decisions] **[Report to follow]**

DECISION ITEMS (AMBER - DELEGATED TO CABINET)

- 6 **Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Partnership - Annual Report** (Pages 13 - 70)
[To present the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Partnership Annual Report]
- 7 **Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020** (Pages 71 - 138)
[To note the publication of the Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020 and associated action plans]
- 8 **Youth Council Annual Report** (Pages 139 - 150)
[To consider the City of Wolverhampton Youth Council's Annual Report]
- 9 **The Wolverhampton House Project Annual Report - One Year On** (Pages 151 - 168)
[To receive the House Project Annual report]
- 10 **Partnership Agreement between City of Wolverhampton Council and Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council** (Pages 169 - 174)
[To approve the Council entering into a partnership agreement with Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council to continue work on the National Lottery funded Wolverhampton for Everyone]

- 11 **Appointments to Outside Bodies - Bilston Relief in Need Charity Bilston Educational Charity** (Pages 175 - 178)
[To approve the appointment of Council representatives onto the Bilston Relief in Need Charity Bilston Educational Charity]

- 12 **Exclusion of press and public**
[To pass the following resolution:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information on the grounds shown below.]

Part 2 - exempt items, closed to press and public

- 13 **Towns Fund Bid Update** (Pages 179 - 206) Information relating to (3)
[To receive an update on the recent the financial or business
submission to Government for Towns Funding affairs of any particular
to support the delivery strategic projects person (including the
covering the centres of Bilston, Wednesfield, authority holding that
and the City Centre; and where required to information)
seek appropriate approvals to accept and
defray funding to expedite project delivery]

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Meeting of the Cabinet Minutes - 11 November 2020
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Attendance

Members of the Cabinet

Cllr Ian Brookfield (Chair)
Cllr Louise Miles (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr John Reynolds

Employees

Tim Johnson	Chief Executive
Mark Taylor	Deputy Chief Executive
Emma Bennett	Director of Children and Adult Services
Ross Cook	Director of City Environment
Charlotte Johns	Director of Strategy
Richard Lawrence	Director of Regeneration
Claire Nye	Director of Finance
David Pattison	Director of Governance
Laura Phillips	Deputy Director of People and Change
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
Dereck Francis	Democratic Services Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Stephen Simkins and Jacqueline Sweetman. |
| 2 | Declaration of interests
Mark Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive and Ross Cook, Director of City Environment both declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5 (Capital Programme 2020-2021 to 2024-2025 Quarter 2 Review) as they are both Directors of WV Living. They also declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 (Treasury Management Activity Monitoring – Mid Year Review 2020-2021) due to the references to loan facilities to WV Living within the report. |

Councillor Linda Leach declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 (Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 to 2023-2024) in so far as she is a small business owner within the City.

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 October 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

Decision items (Red - for decision by the Council)

The Chair reported that the next two items on the agenda would require Council approval. He sought confirmation on how this would be secured given that the Council meeting scheduled for 18 November would not be taking place because of current Covid restrictions. David Pattison, Director of Governance reported that whilst we are in the period of national lockdown, until that ends there would not be any Full Council meetings. That means the 18 November Council meeting had been cancelled and any decisions that would have been made by that Council would be made using the Urgent Powers under the Council's Constitution.

5 **Capital Programme 2020-2021 to 2024-2025 Quarter Two Review**

Having previously declared a non-pecuniary interest, Mark Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive and Ross Cook, Director of City Environment both left the virtual meeting during Cabinet's consideration of agenda item 5 (Capital Programme 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 - Quarter 2 Review) and item 6 (Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2020-2021).

Councillor Louise Miles presented the headlines from the update report on the Council's Capital Programme. The programme of £299.9 million, showed an increase of £11.4 million since the last report to Cabinet. The projects which contributed to this overall increase were schools, highways improvements, the Interchange project, and parks and open spaces. She reported that this showed the Council's continuing commitment to the regeneration of the city and to the Relighting Our City priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Councillor Miles also reported on the position within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme that remained at £403.9 million. Cabinet's attention was also drawn to a new project, The Future High Streets Fund, (Minute 12 below refers). The Council was required to confirm that it would be providing match funding into the project as a condition of being able to make a bid to the Fund. Continued arrangements for providing loan facilities to Wolverhampton Homes as previously approved at a Joint Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel meeting on 23 June 2020 were also highlighted.

Cabinet members welcomed the proposals in the report which built on the Relighting Our City agenda.

Resolved:

That Cabinet recommend that Council approve:

1. The revised, medium term General Revenue account capital programme of £299.9 million, an increase of £11.4 million from the previously approved programme, and the change in associated resources.

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the virements for the General Revenue Account capital programme detailed at Appendix 4 to the report for;
 - i. existing projects totalling £2.7 million;
 - ii. new projects totalling £6.3 million.
2. Approve the virements for the HRA capital programme detailed at Appendix 4 to the report for;
 - i. existing projects totalling £1.5 million;
 - ii. new projects totalling £32.9 million.
3. Approve the Supplemental Deed of Variation relating to governance of Enterprise Zone funding across the four Black Country Authorities detailed at Appendix 5 to the report.
4. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Members for City Economy in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Director of Governance to conduct any negotiations and to make any minor amendments and to subsequently authorise the sealing of the Supplemental Deed of Variation Relating to the Collaboration Agreement in Relation to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee City Deal and Growth Deal dated the 7 May 2014 and the sealing or signing of any related documents.
5. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Finance, to approve the allocation of the Expansion Programme budgets to individual capital projects including making grant payments where appropriate in order that projects can be progressed in a timely manner.
6. Continue to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance to approve the terms of a loan facility to Wolverhampton Homes. This is an extension of time in respect of the approval that was previously given by a joint meeting of Cabinet and Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 23 June 2020.
7. Note there is one new project requiring internal resources included in the report, which is subject to a separate detailed project report also on the agenda. The inclusion of this project is for budget approval purpose and is on the assumption that the approval to progress with the project is given. As the progression is dependent on that decision, if the project is not approved, the capital programme would be reduced accordingly. The name of the project is:
 - Future High Street Fund

- 6 **Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2020-2021**
Councillor Louise Miles presented the headlines from the update report on the Treasury Management Activity Monitoring. She confirmed that the Council had operated within all the required rules and protocols. There was a forecast revenue underspend of £1.8 million for the General Revenue Account and a £682,000 from the Housing Revenue Account. This was essentially as a result of the impact of Covid-19, the need to rephase the capital programme, and the reduced cost of borrowing as a result of lower interest rates. Councillor Miles also reported on the

position of two out of three credit rating agencies downgrading the UK's sovereign rating and an action that the Director of Finance would take under a previously approved delegated authority, if the third credit rating agency followed and downgraded the UK's credit rating.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to approve:

1. That a mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement has been undertaken and the Council has operated within the limits and requirements approved in March 2020.
2. That revenue underspends of £1.8 million for the General Revenue Account and £682,000 for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) are forecast from treasury management activities in 2020-2021, arising as a result of re-phasing of the capital programme and lower interest rates forecast on borrowing due to the impact on the economy of Covid-19.
3. That two of the three credit rating agencies have downgraded the UK's credit rating. If the remaining credit rating agency follows suit the Director of Finance would lower the minimum sovereign rating in the Annual Investment Strategy in line with the delegated authority approved by Council on 17 July 2020.

That Cabinet notes:

1. The financial information included in the report is based on the 'Capital Programme 2020-2021 to 2024-2025 Quarter Two Review' report also on the agenda for this meeting. The capital report is subject to a report being separately approved by Cabinet also at this meeting. Therefore, if this approval is not obtained, a revised version of this report would be presented to Council on 18 November 2020.

7 **Draft Budget and the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period of 2021-2022 to 2023-2024**

Councillor Louise Miles presented the key points from the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 to 2023-2024 report. Cabinet's approval was sought to continue work on setting a balanced budget for 2021-2022. She reported that were it not for the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council would be faced with a budget deficit by 2021-2022 of £4.5 million, which was not an unusual position to be in at this stage in the budget making cycle. However, Covid-19 had had a huge impact on the Council's finances and would continue to do so. Current forecasts were for a challenging time with cuts of more than £23 million to local services that the City's residents depend on unless additional Government funding was received. She called upon the Government to keep the pledges it had made and do whatever it takes to help local councils with regard to the financial impact of Covid-19; and to put forward a joined up strategy with regard to the future financial aid and grants for councils in the Covid-19 emergency but also generally with regard to resources that they give to councils.

Resolved:

That Council be recommended to approve:

1. The updated draft budget strategy linked to the Five Year Financial Strategy, including changes to corporate resource assumptions and growth and

inflation, for inclusion in the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 to 2023-2024.

2. That work continues to further develop budget reduction and income generation proposals, in order to ensure that a balanced budget can be set for 2021-2022.
3. That authority be jointly delegated to the responsible Cabinet Member and the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the responsible Director and the Director of Finance to vary fees and charges in line with key priorities.
4. That authority be jointly delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of Finance to establish supplementary revenue budgets funded by grant and approve any virements required to support the costs associated the second national lockdown. As detailed in paragraph 3.8 to the report, the Government have announced a number of grants for local authorities in response to the second national lockdown. At the time of writing this report, the full details of these grants were not known.

That Cabinet notes:

1. That the Council needs the Government to provide confirmation of future years funding as soon as possible and by early December at the latest, in order to ensure that the Council has a clear direction of funding available over the medium term.
2. That, despite austerity since 2010, the Council has a strong track-record of managing money well, planning ahead and delivering excellent services. The financial implications of the pandemic have significantly distorted the budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.
3. The impact Covid-19 has had and would continue to have a significant financial impact on the 2020-2021 budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy. However, following announcements made by Government it is assumed that sufficient grant funding would be provided to cover the cost pressures arising as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Taking this into account, the 2021-2022 projected budget deficit stands at £4.5 million.
4. That, in the event that the Government do not provide sufficient grant funding to meet the cost pressures arising as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021-2022 projected budget deficit would be in the region of £23.2 million. This would have a significant impact on the Council and result in the Council undertaking a fundamental review of all services in order to identify budget reductions sufficient enough to set a balanced budget.
5. That, a number of assumptions have been made with regards to the level of resources that would be available to the Council as detailed in the report. It is important to note that there continues to be a considerable amount of uncertainty with regards to future income streams for local authorities over the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review period. At the point that further information is known it would be incorporated into future reports to Councillors. Any reduction in the Government's allocation of funding to the Council would have a significant detrimental impact and further increase the budget deficit forecast over the medium term.

6. That, due to external factors, budget assumptions remain subject to significant change, which could, therefore, result in alterations to the financial position facing the Council.
7. That the 2021-2022 budget timetable would, as in previous years, include an update on all budget assumptions and the outcome of the Provisional Local Government Settlement would be presented to Cabinet by January 2021, with the final budget report due to be approved by Full Council in March 2021.
8. That the overall level of risk associated with the 2020-2021 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 to 2023-2024 is assessed as Red.

8 **Principal Social Work Annual Report**

Councillor Linda Leach presented a progress report on the work of the Principal Social Worker to promote and improve the quality of social work practice, and outline priority areas of work to be undertaken in 2020-2021. The report showed good progress in both children's and adults social work over the last 12 months. She particularly highlighted the Think Whole Family approach and welcomed that the services were retaining the social work students it had trained, and that the turnover of social work staff in Wolverhampton was lower than the national average. She looked forward to building on the improvements set out in the Principal Social Worker's report going forward.

Councillor John Reynolds added that he welcomed the improved recruitment and retention of social workers. There was still more to do in this area and the work of the Principal Social Worker would be key. The Annual report set out approaches to recruiting, assessing and retaining social workers in Wolverhampton.

Resolved:

1. That the work of the Principal Social Worker and the continued impact it has on social care practice across children's and adults' services be endorsed.
2. That the main priorities for the Principal Social Worker identified for 2020-2021 be approved.

9 **Community Asset Transfer: Policy and Strategy Review**

Councillor John Reynolds presented for approval a revised community asset transfer (CAT) strategy. The key updates to the strategy make clear what the benefits and risks of a community asset transfer are to the organisation involved to make sure there is complete transparency from the outset. It also provides a clear timeline for the CAT process so people know how long it would take; and was more flexible, to allow for differentiating circumstances, as no CAT are the same.

Resolved:

That the revised Community Asset Transfer Strategy be approved.

10 **Housing Allocations Policy Implementation**

Councillor John Reynolds presented the report on a proposal to extend the implementation period of the revised Housing Allocations Policy which was approved by Cabinet on 19 February 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic had meant that the policy had not been implemented in the way planned. It was originally intended for the

policy to be fully implemented in February next year. Implementation in the middle of 2021 was now proposed. Minor policy amendments, including its application to people who have been subject to domestic violence, were also proposed. The change would make sure that they can be moved as quickly as possible away from the issues they have got and into safe accommodation.

Resolved:

1. That the amendments to the Housing Allocations Policy as detailed in paragraph 3.6 of the report be approved.
2. That an extension to the implementation of the Housing Allocations Policy be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Assets and Housing, in consultation with the Director for City Environment, to authorise a 'go live date' for the Housing Allocations Policy.

11 **Exclusion of press and public**

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Part 2 - exempt items, closed to press and public

The Chair reported that as stated previously the meeting was in confidential session as the information included in the report could, if released into the public domain, prejudice the financial position of the Council or its partners. As such all present are under a legal duty of confidentiality and must not disclose any confidential information - to do so would not only be a breach of the Council's codes (for councillors and employees) but also a breach of the legal duty of confidentiality.

12 **Future High Streets Fund - Bid Update**

Councillor Ian Brookfield present the update report on the £22.85 million bid to Government for Future High Streets Fund to revitalise the area known as City Centre West. Councillor Steve Evans highlighted the public realm enhancement projects within the bid.

Councillor John Reynolds sought clarification on whether it was intended for Cabinet to receive reports for approval on each individual project within the Council's bid. David Pattison, Director of Governance advised that Cabinet would have to approve the individual business case for each project. However, that could be delegated down to the appropriate Cabinet member(s) to approve through an Individual Executive Decision Notice.

Resolved:

1. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Members for City Economy, City Environment and Resources in consultation with the Directors of Regeneration, City Environment and Finance to approve the full terms and conditions of a resultant Future High Streets Fund grant funding agreement.

2. That it be noted that the capital costs, funded by internal resources, included in the report have been incorporated into the 'Capital Programme 2020-2021 to 2024-2025 Quarter Two Review' report, which is also on the agenda and would subsequently be reported to Full Council for approval on the 18 November 2020, assuming that Cabinet approval to progress with the project is given. As the progression is dependent on that decision, if the project is not approved, the capital programme would be reduced accordingly.
3. That it be noted that Cabinet would receive future update reports that would detail the individual projects within the Future High Streets Fund bid.
4. That it be noted that if the City Centre West Future High Streets bid is unsuccessful or a reduced grant is awarded, the spending commitment may be reviewed accordingly.
5. That the land assembly strategy for the Future High Streets Fund area and previous Cabinet approvals as set out in the report be noted.

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 9 December, 2020
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Report title	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Partnership – 2019-2020 Annual Report	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Linda Leach (Adults), Councillor John Reynolds (Children and Young People) and Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre (Education and Skills)	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett Director of Children’s and Adult Services	
Originating service	Adults Services / Children’s Services	
Accountable employee	Andrew Wolverson	Head of Strategy and Partnerships
	Tel	01902 555550
	Email	andrew.wolverson@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Adult’s Leadership Team	20 October 2020
	Children’s Leadership Team	22 October 2020
	Strategic Executive Board	5 November 2020
	Scrutiny Board	11 November 2020

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Endorse the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST) 2019-2020 Annual Report.
2. Agree that the partnership has transitioned to its new arrangements effectively since September 2019.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. That WST will continue with its current partnership arrangements with City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) as a statutory partner in line with The Social Work Act 2017 and subsequent Working Together 2018 Guidance and The Care Act 2014.
2. That an overview of the Scrutiny and Assurance Coordination Group is due to be included in the final version of the Annual Report as requested at Councillor Briefing on the 16 November 2020.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present The Cabinet with the WST 2019-2020 Annual Report which covers our transition to a multi-agency partnership from a joint Adult's and Children's Safeguarding Board, key achievements and references the WST response to Coronavirus.
- 1.2 Under the Care Act 2014, Adult's Safeguarding Boards must publish an Annual Report. As Wolverhampton has operated a joint adult's and children's safeguarding board since 2017, both boards have remained integrated as part of the transition to the WST partnership. This Annual Report fulfils this Care Act requirement.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Social Work Act, 2017 required all local areas to review their children's safeguarding arrangements in line with guidance set out in Working Together 2018. The guidance established the Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group and West Midlands Police as statutory equal partners in any new arrangements.
- 2.2 The publication of Working Together 2018 led to an independent review of the structure of Wolverhampton's joint adult's and children's safeguarding boards. Several recommendations were made with the most significant differences between a board and partnership arrangement being:
 - a. Reduction of the number of boards and committees to an executive group made up of the statutory safeguarding partners, with the main partnership board becoming the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group (SACG). In addition, following learning from early adopters, education will become the 'fourth' partner on the Executive Group.
 - b. Replacement of the Independent Chair with a nominated chair from the statutory safeguarding partners whilst retaining an independent perspective by implementing a range of scrutiny arrangements. This includes a bi-annual event facilitated by an external expert who would also undertake an appraisal of the Executive Group.
 - c. Strengthened arrangements for engagement with the wider community and 'experts by experience' through the Community and Engagement Group. This would ensure the voice of children, families and vulnerable adults is at the forefront in the new arrangements.
 - d. Ensuring the work of WST is always focussed on answering the question "What difference have we made?" through the arrangements.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 WST officially transitioned from the board to the partnership in September 2019. To ensure this was done smoothly a Shadow Executive Group (to be the WST Executive

Group) operated for several months until the board structure and Independent Chair were formally stood down.

- 3.2 Since September 2019, WST has made the below progress against the independent review recommendations:
- a. Reduced the size of the Executive Group to just the statutory partners with education also represented. This group meets monthly and will continue to do so to provide ongoing leadership to the partnership as it stabilises and recovers from temporary adjustments caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.
 - b. Replaced the Board with a Scrutiny and Assurance Coordination Group (SACG) who steer the work of WST priority groups and ensure the partnership remains focused on collaboration, learning and protecting the most vulnerable in our city. SACG also report directly to the Executive Group with two-way channels for both communication and escalation readily available.
 - c. Reduced the number of committees and standing groups from 10 to six priority groups and one provider group. Each priority group has a responsive work plan which aims to deliver the priorities set out in the WST Strategic plan. These include: Early Help and Prevention, Mental Health, Exploitation, Community and Engagement, Learning and Improvement and One Panel (who are responsible for statutory learning reviews). The provider group focuses on safeguarding in education and is represented by a variety of settings. See Appendix 1 – WST Structure.
 - d. Replaced its Independent Chair with the Chief Nursing Officer for the Black Country and West Birmingham's Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), one of the statutory partners. Chair responsibilities will be managed on an 18-month rota from within the Executive Group membership.
 - e. Commissioned an Independent Scrutineer to carry out a 360 appraisal of the new partnership arrangements, do an in-depth review of the Executive Group, write the Annual Report and plan and deliver the partnership's first Annual Event scheduled for January 2021. The first event will hold partners to account on their safeguarding responsibilities and will provide evidence on how positive changes in safeguarding practice following learning reviews has been implemented. Targeted independent scrutiny will be commissioned as required.
 - f. Written a mandate that sets out what is required by a Task and Finish effort to develop WST's 'experts by experience' approach building on the city's Co-production and Engagement Charter. This charter is currently used amongst services for children and young people and the group want to upscale this to include engagement with adults. The Exploitation priority group are also in the process of designing an expert by experience pilot as part of their workplan so that they can ascertain service user accounts on exploitation pathways and support.

- g. Introduced to the SACG agenda a standing on item for experts by experience feedback whereby the partnership can hear and learn from the views of those with lived experience of safeguarding services, this includes professionals who participate in WST multi-agency training.
 - h. Approved the appointment of an Integrated Assurance Lead who will drive forward the Outcomes and Quality Assurance Frameworks for WST which include gathering and analysing feedback from experts by experience with the aim of learning and improving from this.
 - i. Fulfilled its statutory duty of receiving and appropriately progressing safeguarding referrals through its One Panel function.
- 3.3 In addition to the above, WST has also delivered a multi-agency response the Coronavirus pandemic. It is important to note that this work has taken place in a different reporting year to the 2019-20 Annual Report however, WST felt it important to reference the partnership response as a strong example of joint working and commitment to safeguarding the most vulnerable in our city.
- 3.4 In April 2020 at the start of the National lockdown, WST quickly formed a Covid-19 Response Group with appropriate governance to provide assurance on:
- a. Modified multi-agency standard operating models
 - b. Commitment to progressing statutory learning reviews
 - c. Delivery of key safeguarding messages to the public and professionals.
- 3.5 The WST Covid-19 Response Group met weekly for four months and addressed health, education, social care and community safeguarding issues. The group analysed data and escalated several risks to the Executive Group that were mitigated and managed effectively. The group delivered against an action plan and communications plan and as lockdown restrictions were lifted, continued to meet under a Covid-19 Recovery title. The Recovery Group now meets monthly and focuses on a revised action plan, escalation and exception reporting and lessons learned - all in a multi-agency safeguarding context.
- 3.6 As well as the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Groups, WST has successfully transferred its core training offer online so that professionals and designated safeguarding leads can continue to be upskilled and up to date with mandatory training.
- 3.7 WST has in the last six months upgraded its Safeguarding Together website making information easier to navigate and puts priority on how a safeguarding concern can be reported.

See Appendix 2 – Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together DRAFT 2019-2020 Annual Report for more detail.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 As part of the 2019 independent review, three options were considered at the time with the partnership arrangements as they are now under WST being the preferred option.
- 4.2 No further options are being considered at this point however, following independent scrutiny and further recommendations, changes and improvements to the current arrangements will be agreed and actioned accordingly. This will be done in line with legislation.

5.0 Reasons for decision

- 5.1 To remain compliant with statutory requirements
- 5.2 To maintain an integrated approach to children's and adult's safeguarding in a multi-agency context
- 5.3 To improve outcomes for vulnerable people of all ages.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The WST 2019-2020 outturn is detailed below and shows a surplus against contributions of £6,000 which was transferred to reserves to be used in future years.

Classification	£ Budget	£ Outturn
<u>Expenditure:</u>		
Staffing	215,055	171,893
Staff Advertising	2,000	0
Independent Chair	48,000	48,404
Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews	18,000	18,873
B Safe Contribution	10,500	0
Staff Travel	1,660	963
Training	25,000	13,805
Room Hire and Catering	8,020	10,925
General Office Running Costs	4,780	1,682
Total Expenditure	333,015	266,546
<u>Partner Contributions and Training Income:</u>		
CAFCAS	550	550
WM Police	30,547	30,852
SWM Community Rehabilitation Company Lts	1,500	1,500
CCG	78,000	68,000
LA Contribution	144,495	156,960
Training Fees Non-Attendance	503	11,765
Probation Service (18/19 & 19/20)		3,000
Total Partner Contributions	255,595	272,627
Net deficit/surplus to be transferred to/from WST Reserve	-77,470	6,081

[JB/21102020/A]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 The Council is one of three statutory partners named within the legislation for both children's and adults safeguarding arrangements. The other two partners are the Clinical Commissioning Group and West Midlands Police. For children's safeguarding, partners have equal responsibility for safeguarding arrangements, however, this is not the case for adults with responsibility sitting with the Council.
- 7.2 The partnership arrangements continue to remain compliant with the (Children's) Social Work Act 2017, (Adult's) Care Act 2014 respectively and Working Together 2018 Guidance
[TC/19102020/B]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 The work of WST is to ensure the systems within the city protect some of the most vulnerable people. The partnership will continue to seek to ascertain deeper engagements from a wide range of groups and residents on the safeguarding issues that matter to them. This will be driven through the community and engagement group and an agreed 'experts by experience' approach. Both will provide feedback on the current priorities and development of new ones.
- 8.2 WST is in the process of establishing a task and finish effort to address the theme of Inclusive Safeguarding on the back of the Black Lives Matter movement. The task and finish group will explore the question 'Which areas does your agency think could be developed further in the context of inclusive safeguarding?'
- 8.3 Standard equalities monitoring is also included for all partners within the Outcomes and Quality Assurance Frameworks.

9.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 9.1 There are no climate change and environmental implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

- 10.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 11.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

12.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 12.1 Whilst there are no health and wellbeing implications arising from the recommendations in this report, the work of WST aims to improve safeguarding outcomes and protect the

most vulnerable in our city. Doing this successfully is likely to have a positive impact on an individual's health and wellbeing.

13.0 Covid Implications

13.1 Whilst there are no implications arising from the recommendations in this report, WST has operated a modified model during the pandemic. Partners have worked together to ensure that statutory safeguarding responsibilities have been upheld and efforts have been redeployed throughout the partnership to enable an appropriate collaborative response.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

14.1 [Wolverhampton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements](#) – Cabinet 31 July 2019.

15.0 Appendices

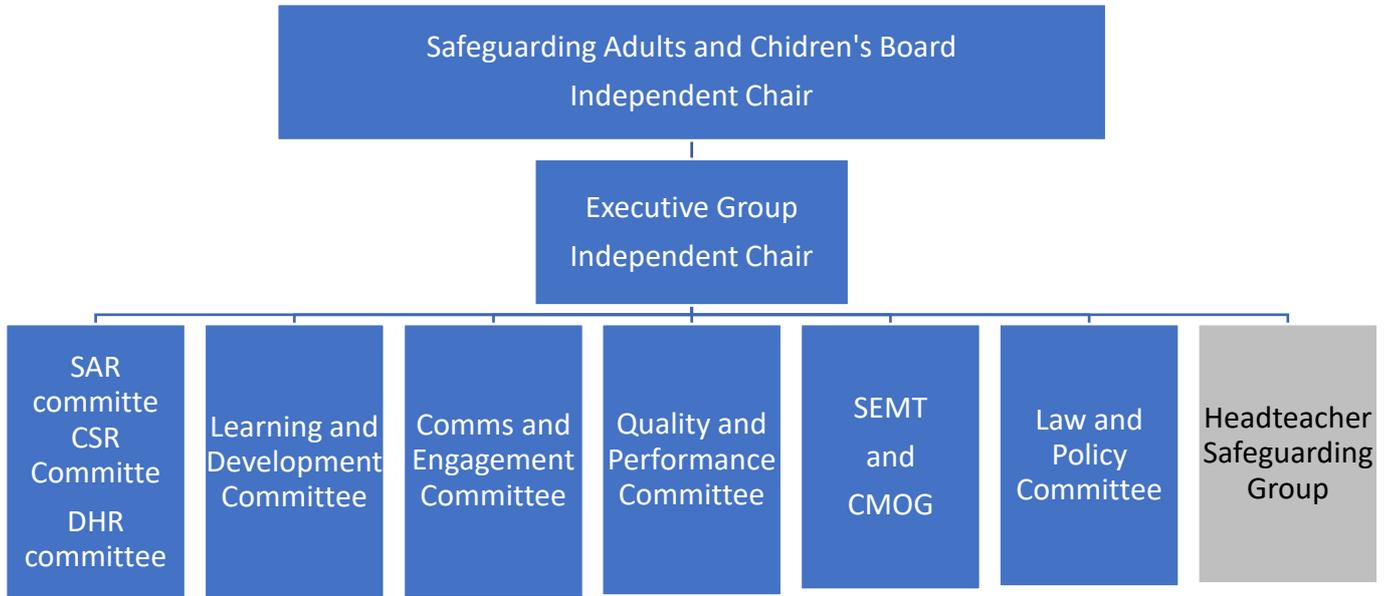
15.1 Appendix 1 – WST Structure

15.2 Appendix 2 – WST 2019-2020 Annual Report

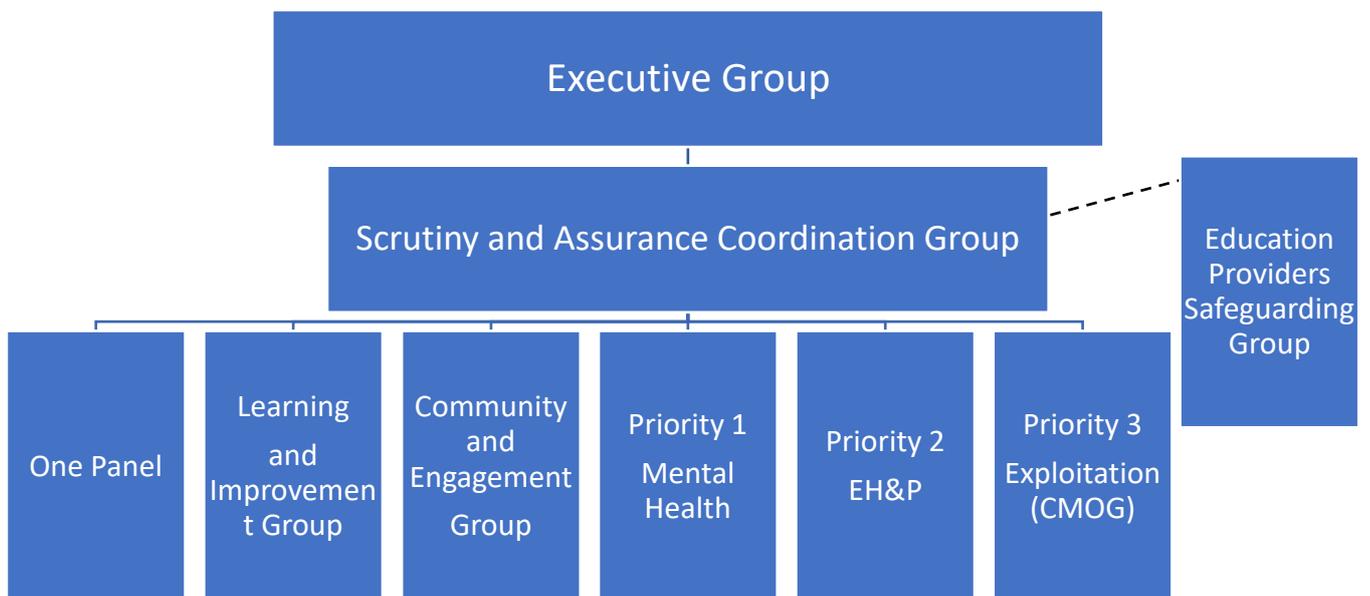


Appendix 1 - Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Structure

Under the Board arrangements:



Under the partnership arrangements:



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Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together

Annual Report 2019 / 2020



CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Page 23



Contact us – We're here to support you

Safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried about someone or yourself, please talk to us. You can get help in any of these ways.

Children Safeguarding Concerns

If you or the person you are concerned about is under 18 (a child or young person) ring the Children Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Team below on:

Monday to Thursday, 8:30am – 5pm and Fridays, 8:30am – 4:30pm01902 555392

Out of hours01902 552999

If you don't want to talk to someone you don't know, you can ask an adult that you trust, like a teacher or youth worker or even a friend, to make the phone call for you.

Adult Safeguarding Concerns

If you or the person you are concerned about is over 18 (an adult at risk) you can call anonymously on the Adult Safeguarding line below. In an emergency, always call 999.

Monday to Thursday, 8:30am – 5pm and Fridays, 8:30am – 4:30pm01902 551199

Out of hours01902 552999

In an emergency999

There is also helpful information on the Wolverhampton Safety Together (WST) website:
www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk

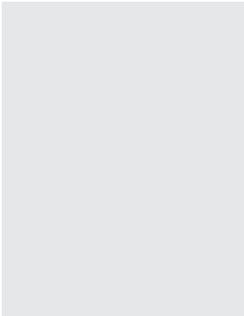
Partner Organisations

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together, Wolverhampton CCG, West Midlands Fire Service, West Midlands Police, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, National Probation Service, Health Watch Wolverhampton, Black Country Healthcare NHS FT (MH / LD), City of Wolverhampton Council, Adult Social Care, City of Wolverhampton Council, Children Services, VSC, Wolverhampton Homes, West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS FT, City of Wolverhampton Council, Children Services.

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Foreword



It gives me the greatest pleasure to write to you as the Chair of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST) Executive Group, helping to keep all our citizens in Wolverhampton safe.

This is the first year that our two Boards – Children’s Safeguarding Board and Adults Safeguarding Board – has reported as one entity as *Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together* in order to meet our statutory requirements under the *Working Together 2018* statutory guidance for Children’s Safeguarding and the Care Act 2014 for Adult safeguarding.

I wanted to give everyone a warm welcome and in particular our safeguarding partners to thank them for all their hard work evidenced throughout our annual report during the year under review.

Our report provides clear evidence of sustained strong partnership working across the agencies that work in Wolverhampton and I also wanted to go on record and state that we believe that a great many benefits have accrued from our new arrangement, including improved information

exchange between all our safeguarding partners within children and adults, which I believe will ultimately improve outcomes for everyone. This has been an ongoing theme for the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Boards and we continue to strengthen these arrangements; we have active engagement within the wider community and ‘experts by experience’ through the Community and Engagement group to ensure the voice of children, families and vulnerable adults are heard.

The work of One Panel has developed very well and we should recognise the challenges and movement from the original three groups, including Serious Adult Reviews (SAR) and Serious Childrens Review (SCR) sub groups to one panel, which has been significant and not without challenge. This is now reflected in the review of cases across the whole life cycle and system; there is a greater flow of children and adult safeguarding intelligence shared between all partners.

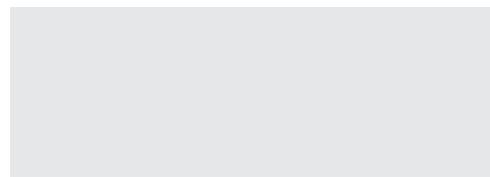
It is also important to recognise that our business critical functions have still been maintained during Covid; as well as a robust and rapid response from partners across the system to respond to the challenges that Covid has provided, we have still maintained a clear

line of sight on Safeguarding practice which has allowed us to identify any immediate risks rapidly.

During the period under review, we have launched the Wolverhampton Neglect Strategy for Children and Young People (CYP) 2019 – 2022. In addition, our communication to partners has been strengthened; we have published a number of newsletters, launched our new WST website as well as other social media communication messages, within which the *WeCAN* tool is embedded to be used as the Neglect assessment tool across the city.

We have incorporated Black Lives Matter (BLM) values and ethics within our practice; there is no better time for us all to reflect internally on our beliefs and behaviours towards inherent inequalities and systemic racism that we may perceive or experience within our personal and / or professional lives here in Wolverhampton. We champion and continue to shape a diverse health and social care workforce within our city as well as ensuring support offered to those in receipt of our services making them bespoke and tailored to individual need. We will do everything possible to continue to expose and eradicate systemic racism.

Finally, in order to further solidify our new Safeguarding partnership arrangements, we have recently commissioned an experienced independent safeguarding scrutineer to review our Scrutiny and Assurance Board and highlight any governance improvement opportunities.



Sally Roberts

Chair, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Executive Group

Statement from the Independent Scrutineer



I have been commissioned as WST's independent scrutineer, which includes writing the Annual Joint Safeguarding Report 2019 / 2020. I am an experienced qualified social worker, with over 25 years' experience in

both Health and Social Care, with a strong focus on Safeguarding and scrutiny and assurance. Working independently for the last 15 years in a series of senior management roles, both regionally and at a national level.

Independent scrutiny is a statutory requirement under the *Working Together 2018* Act for Children's services, designed to provide assurance internally to partners and relevant agencies, their governing and scrutiny bodies; and externally, to the DfE, Ofsted, the CQC, HMI-CFRS, HMIP, and other inspectors auditors or regulators.

Working Together 2018 is clear that mutual holding to account, support and challenge is how the statutory partners and relevant agencies must operate, ensuring the partnership and its impacts are clear, co-owned, and contribute to progressively improving children and young people's lives. Wolverhampton Safeguarding Partnership have chosen to use a range of independent scrutiny methods to provide assurance.

As the Independent Scrutineer, I have been commissioned to complete the following key areas:

- a) **Author the annual joint safeguarding annual report 2019 / 2020**
- b) **Plan and facilitate WST's Annual Events:** effective planning and coordination of the twice-yearly annual events. Which have two themes: 1) Reflection on implementing the new partnership arrangements and priorities 2) holding agencies to account on achieving priorities.
- c) **Complete a 360-partnership appraisal –** The appraisal will need to be relevant to the point in time the partnership is at. It should include all areas of governance and our commitment to 'Experts by Experience'.
- d) **Develop a maturity model:** a framework that will allow WST to benchmark our partnership and its collaborative working in achieving priorities against a level of maturity

Currently, I am at the very earliest stages of my commissioned work but a large part of my focus will be on the work of the Executive Group and Scrutiny & Assurance Co-ordination Group to ensure sufficient data and feedback is available to allow the partnership to demonstrate whether priorities have been achieved.

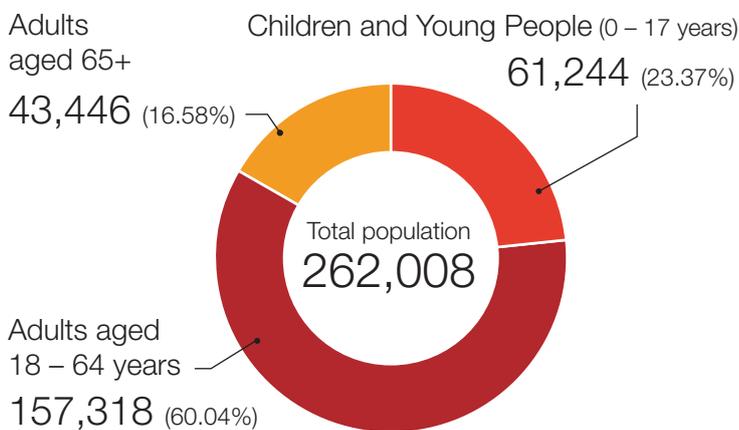


Vicky Murphy
Independent Scrutineer, Wolverhampton
Safeguarding Together

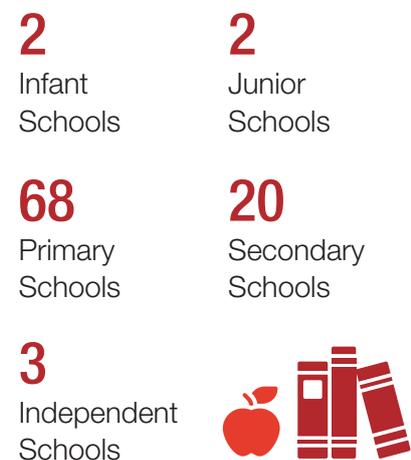
Wolverhampton at a Glance

The council recognises the diversity of the people and the communities of the district and is committed to working with our partners and the district's many communities to understand and meet the needs of individuals and communities and improve their opportunities, wellbeing and ability to live together productively. This is done by building closer links with everyone and using our influence within the local community by giving a lead to other employers, partners and other local agencies to promote equalities.

Population of Wolverhampton¹



Education²



Children in Care of the Council³



96 per 10,000 in Wolverhampton



62 per 10,000 in England

There are more children in the care of the Council (96 per 10k, 65 per 10k in England)

Residential or Nursing Care Placements⁴



817 per 100,000

of over 65s had permanent placements in residential or nursing care (2018-19)

1 www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/ageing-population-estimates/editions/time-series/versions/3 (June 2020)

2 www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/ageing-population-estimates/editions/time-series/versions/1 (October 2020)

3 www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-11/Public%20Health%20Annual%20Report%202019.pdf; page 9

4 www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-11/Public%20Health%20Annual%20Report%202019.pdf; page 21

Introduction

Ensuring that children, young people and adults are safeguarded from abuse and neglect is everyone's responsibility. In Wolverhampton this is achieved through a co-ordinated approach to safeguarding. As a result of agencies working collaboratively across both the children's and adult's workforce, professionals will recognise and fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities.

This document sets out the Wolverhampton children's and adults multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The arrangements accentuate the need for agencies to work collectively to ensure that children and adults are safeguarded and remain at the heart of the multi-agency safeguarding processes.

Legislative Context

Our report covers the period 1 April 2019 until 31 March 2020.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 confirms that the three statutory safeguarding partners in relation to a local authority area are defined in the *Children and Social Work Act 2017* as the:

- Local Authority
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Chief officer of Police

The three statutory partners have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. The *Children and Social Work Act 2017* has provided partners in Wolverhampton with a unique opportunity to develop new partnership safeguarding arrangements.

The move to abolish Local Safeguarding Children Boards arising from this Act, changing structures and working arrangements in partner agencies and the ongoing demands on resources, have made it essential to look at the Local Safeguarding Board Governance arrangements across Wolverhampton.

The Care Act 2014 also established the need to have Safeguarding Adult Boards in each local authority Area. The Act confirmed that the three statutory safeguarding partners should be:

- Local Authority
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Chief Officer of Police.

Leadership and Governance – Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together

The revised governance arrangements build on the knowledge and learning arising from both the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Safeguarding Adults Board.

The arrangements will continue to scrutinise and monitor safeguarding practice but also seek to produce accessible learning for both practitioners and senior managers from the themes and trends arising from increased quality assurance activity. The new arrangements seek to bring together the three statutory safeguarding partners (Health (CCG), Police and Local Authority) to form an Executive Group – Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST)

Membership of the Executive Group will consist of senior officers from the three statutory partners plus Education and will look at both adults and children’s safeguarding. The Executive Safeguarding Partnership Group is the overarching Wolverhampton governance board for both the children’s safeguarding agenda and adults safeguarding agenda and is a high level, strategic board that will primarily focus on safeguarding systems performance and resourcing. This Board will have the statutory accountability for safeguarding in the Wolverhampton area.

Bringing together adults and children’s safeguarding will ensure that safeguarding issues can be looked at holistically in a “think family approach” and will also provide a forum for transitional arrangements to be discussed and agreed.

The Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group sit below the Executive Group and are responsible for progressing the Executive Group’s business priorities through the strategic plan. Under the Care Act 2014, this is WST’s statutory Adult Safeguarding Board. Here, they authorise the policy, process, strategy and guidance required to support the Executive Group priorities and effective safeguarding.

The Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination group have wider partner membership to include probation, health providers, education, voluntary sector (including faith communities) and housing. Below the Executive Group and the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group are a range of sub groups and task and finish group(s). These groups are responsible for a range of areas, including policies, training, consultation and quality assurance.

To be at its most effective, the process also requires input from children/young people, those adults in need of help and protection and frontline practitioners. These views could be gathered via a range of activities including surveys, consultation with focus groups and invitation(s) to sub groups.

Flow Chart of the WST Governance Structure



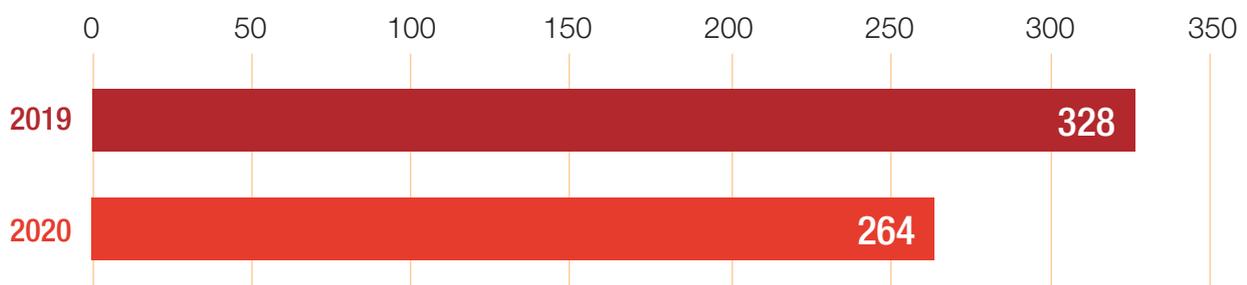
Key Achievements for WST Safeguarding Partnership – 2019 / 2020

- 1) Reduced the size of the Executive Group to just the statutory partners with education also represented.
- 2) Replaced the Board with a Scrutiny and Assurance Coordination Group (SACG) who strategically guide the work of WST and ensure the partnership remains focused on sharing, learning and protecting the most vulnerable. This group also report directly to the Executive Group with open communication channels for both communication and escalation readily available.
- 3) Consolidation of groups / standing groups from ten to six groups with one further provider group. Each group has a work plan aiming to deliver our priorities set out in the WST Strategic plan including Early Help and Prevention; Mental Health; Exploitation; Community and Engagement; Learning and Improvement and One Panel (statutory learning reviews). The provider group focuses on safeguarding in education represented across a number of settings. Additionally, SACG has the ability to put together a task and finish group which allows WST to focus temporarily on areas of concern(s) and which can be closed off once this group has completed its work.
- 4) We have replaced our Independent Chair with the Chief Nursing Officer for the Black Country and West Birmingham's Clinical Commissioning Groups (BCWB CCG), one of our core statutory partners.
- 5) Commissioned an Independent Scrutineer to carry out a full appraisal of the new arrangements, including amongst other things, an in-depth review of the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group and plan and deliver the partnership's maiden Annual Event scheduled for early next year (Quarter 1, 2021). This event will hold all our partner colleagues to report on their safeguarding responsibilities, providing evidence on how constructive changes in safeguarding practice following learning reviews have been implemented.
- 6) Created and approved a mandate that recognises what is required by a Task and Finish effort to develop WST's 'experts by experience' approach, building on the City of Wolverhampton Co-production and Engagement Charter.
- 7) Created a SACG standing item agenda for *experts by experience* feedback whereby the partnership can hear and learn from the views of those with lived experience of safeguarding services.
- 8) We have launched the Wolverhampton Neglect Strategy for Children and Young People (CYP) 2019 – 2022
- 9) Strengthened our communication to partners including the launch of a new website: www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk and published a number of newsletters.
- 10) Fulfilled its statutory duty of receiving and appropriately progressing safeguarding referrals through its *One Panel* function.
- 11) Arranged and held an annual social work conference event for the children's and adult's workforce based on the theme of Human Rights and Exploitation. The key note speaker was Jaswinder Sanghera CBE (Founder of *Karma Nirvana*, an award winning charity) who talked about Forced marriage and Honour Based violence. 232 people attended the conference and the feedback from attendees was very positive.

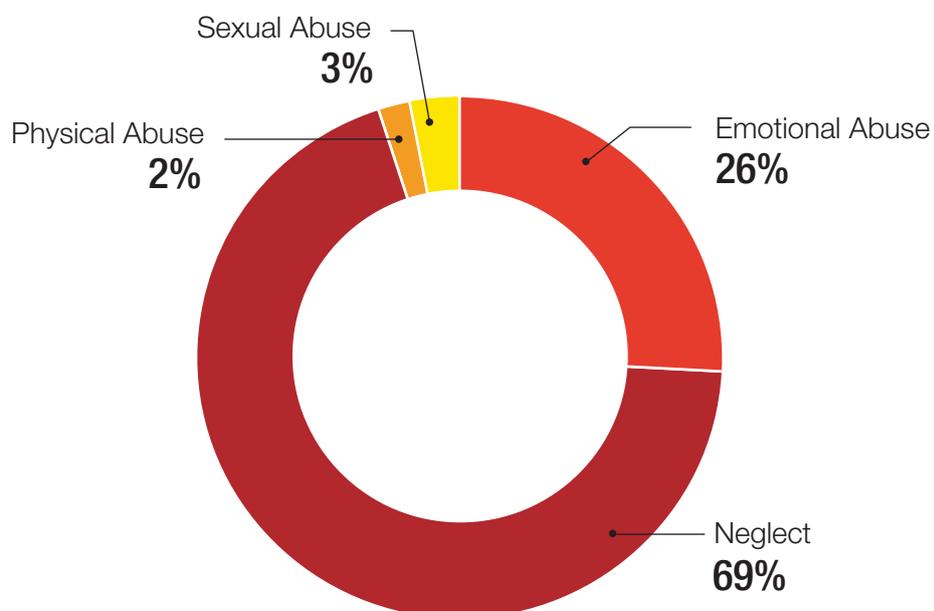
Children and Young Adults (1) – Safeguarding in numbers

No of children on Child Protection Plans – Comparison March 2019 v's March 2020

There has been an approximate 20% reduction in number of children on Child Protection Plans in 2020 versus 2019 or 64 cases.

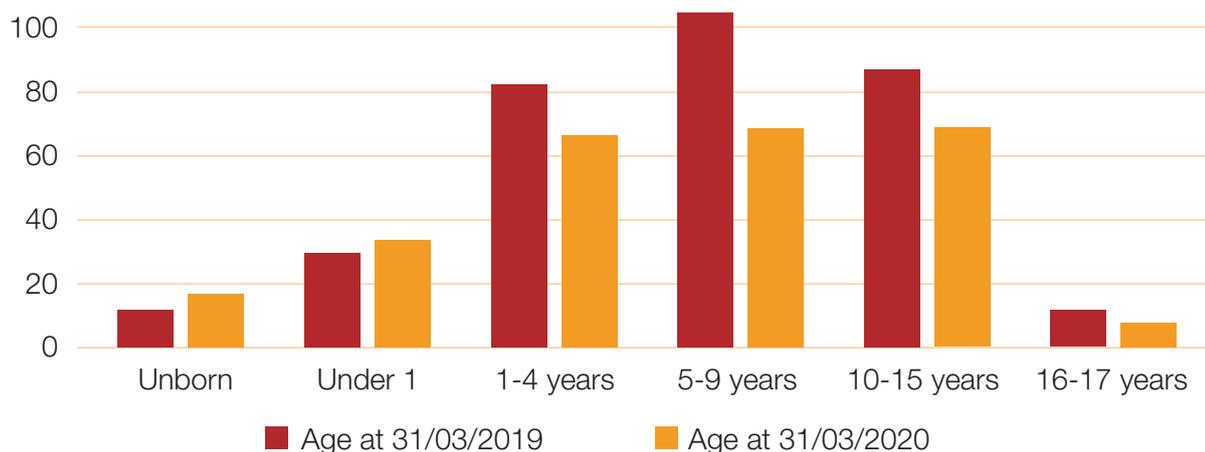


Child Protection Plans by Category of Abuse April 2019 – March 2020



Children and Young Adults (2) – Safeguarding in numbers

Age of Child re Protection Plan by the following bandings



Child Protection

Following work completed around the timeliness of ICPC's (Initial Child Protection Conference), the performance in this area has improved and remained consistently high, achieving 100% of timeliness rates for a number of months, increasing the overall performance across the year.

Further improvements were made to the Child Protection Conference process, where there is now a dedicated section to capture the child's views. This approach has been well received by families and partner agencies and has increased the quality of information shared at Conference and the impact focus of Child Protection Plans.

Children's participation in Conferences has steadily increased, even when children have chosen not to attend, there is evidence to show that more are being asked if they wish to attend, or how best to share their views. There is more evidence of creative work being undertaken by Social Workers to share written and drawn views of children.

The Safeguarding Service continue to obtain written feedback following every Child Protection Conference from parents, the Social Worker and partner-agencies. The feedback obtained remains consistently very good. The feedback process has now moved onto an electronic system which allows for better data analysis.

- The IRO (Independent Reviewing Officer) /CP (Child Protection) Chair Team are fully staffed and increasingly experienced.
- The IRO Team continue to use the Quality Assurance and Dispute Resolution system to monitor the performance of the Local Authority, and the application of these systems has been used more robustly and consistently. The IROs also issued 44 Good/Excellent Practice Notifications to celebrate where Social Worker's have 'gone the extra mile' and made a difference to Children in Care and Children subject to Child Protection Plans.
- The IRO/CP Service received no formal complaints and 13 compliments during 2019-2020.

Children in Care

- IRO Children in Care caseloads have reduced, meaning there has been opportunities to continue with service and practice development.
- 97% of Children In Care Reviews were completed in timescale, an increase on the previous year's performance
- 92% of children participated in their Child in Care Review, remaining consistently high
- 69% of parents participated in their children's Reviews; this is satisfactory given some parents are excluded due to their whereabouts being unknown or otherwise excluded from participating for a valid reason.
- A pilot was carried out during May/June 2019 to trial a new approach to conducting Children in Care Reviews, with a view to increasing child participation. The Pilot was successful and the approach has been approved for full roll-out, scheduled to be completed during Autumn/Winter 2020
- New consultation forms were designed with the Children in Care Council and are now being used for Children's Reviews. Further work is underway to develop resources and tools for Children's Reviews in line with the Project roll-out
- The IROs are now writing their Review Records to the child, using language that is relatable and child friendly.



Children's Service Case Study Summary (1)

R is a fourteen-year-old male who is subject to a Full Care Order under The Children Act 1989. R experienced neglect from his Mother who suffered with poor Mental Health. In 2005 R was placed on a Child Protection Plan and in January 2006, R's Maternal Grandmother YG was granted a Residence Order. In January 2011 however, R became distressed at school, explaining that his neck was in pain due to his Grandmother slapping him around the face. As a result, R went to the hospital for a Child Protection Medical where there were numerous marks on his body; some which were determined to be non-accidental. There were also concerns noted that R was displaying concerning sexualised behaviour and appeared to be having been exposed to an adult lifestyle at an early age of 6. Since R has been subject to a Full Care Order, he has had six foster placements and two residential units, as well as two connected persons placements with his Grandmother and Grandfather, which all broke down due to R's chaotic behaviours.

R was placed at Eagles Care Home in August 2017 which was going well to begin with. However, R began absconding from placement and was reported missing/absent over 30 times. The staff also found a machete in R's bedroom, and he was found with Cannabis, money, scales and a Samara Sword. R had disclosed to the Missing Returns Officer that he was part of a gang and there were strong suspicions that he was involved in County Lines and would share details of individuals who were known to be associated with Child Sexual Exploitation and gangs.

In November 2018 R sustained a Hair Line Fracture and R reported that he was run over by a group of masked men. He later denied this was true, stating that he had fallen off a wall. R was regularly seen being collected by an older male in a car and there was a concern that R was 'plugging' drugs. He was presented at Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel due to the number of missing logs and the association with gangs.

In November 2018, legal advice was sought, and a Local Authority Solicitor advised that R met threshold for Secure Accommodation as he was placing himself and others at significant risk. In December 2018, Director of Children's Services Emma Bennett gave permission for a search for Secure Accommodation provisions to begin. Not long after, R was reported to have asked a taxi driver if they wanted to buy a knife, then producing a large kitchen knife.

On the 20th December 2018, the Police stated that they had intelligence that the gang members that he is involved with would kill him. The Police also advised that they have intel suggesting that a known adult male (who is head of a gang) and R were planning to meet. R's suspected girlfriend at the time was in a different gang and the adult male advised R's girlfriend that he did not want her involved with R due to being in different gangs. The Police advised that should R and this adult male meet, R would be killed.

The Police stated that they had information that R had a machete strapped to him on the 19th December 2018 and one his friends was alleged to have stabbed somebody in the head which he was on bail for. There were also concerns that R had been stabbed in the buttocks as part of gang initiation and asked for this not be disclosed to the hospital.

On the 21st December 2018, Adel Beck Secure Children's Home was identified, and R was transported there on the 22nd December 2018. Since R's admission to Adel Beck he had been involved in a number of incidents ranging from assault on staff, assault on peers, sexualised behaviour, property damage, security breach, and threat to assault. These behaviours however have significantly decreased over the last few months and R has made some great progress at Adel Beck. He has been on various mobility trips on a one to one basis and has not absconded or threatened to do so. The level of physical altercations and restraints have considerably reduced, and he has achieved some great work in education; exceeding expectations in a number of subjects. Work has been completed around gang affiliation and exploration into the potential of R being exploited. His engagement has been good, and he often requests his one to one sessions. R no longer meets threshold and a suitable placement is currently being identified by social care.

Children's Service Case Study Summary (2)

CH is 15 years old. CH is subject to a Full Care Order and was placed under Placement With Parents regulations with his father in June 2016 until 1st August 2018.

CH had been issued with a threat to life letter on 1 August 2018 from the Police in respect of him having stolen a vehicle that was linked to a murder and the family seeking retaliation. The father was minimising the risk posed and so was CH. Mother was unable to have care of CH as she has another child. Father was refusing to safeguard CH and move out of area and stated he could not keep him safe. We tried to make alternative arrangements with family but no family members could care for CH in and or out of city. Family meetings were held, and a family group conference was arranged but no family members wanted to care for him.

Risks in respect of CH

- Escalation of offending behaviour and lack of engagement with YOT
- Affiliation with risky adults
- Misper whilst in LA care
- Threat to life package in place
- Non-school attendance
- CH unaware that he is at risk
- Family are scared and withdrawing support. They are not able to keep him safe.
- Substance misuse

CH was a hard to place young man due to the identified risks, as a result he was placed at Upper Pendeford Farm (UPF in house children's home) due no other placements options, daily searches were undertaken by the placement team. The social worker and social work manager also contacted individual provisions in addition to the placements team with no positive responses.

Regular meetings were held with agencies and family members to review the circumstances, risk manager and explore alternative care arrangements. Legal advice had been sought in respect of a secure placement however given the risks, he did not meet the threshold at this time.

Given that we had received no positive responses from residential and foster placement searches, or family members willing to care for CH, spot purchases had been considered as CH was due to breach the 17-day regulation at UPF. Legal advice was sought in respect of the spot purchase, they advised the local authority cannot place as this would be an unregulated placement.

In view of this the local authority had no other option but to keep C.H at UPF, all avenues had been explored with nothing coming to fruition.

Once a positive match had been received on the 29th August 2018, immediate action was taken, and he was placed in residential via secure transport on the 30th August 2018.

Learning from Reviews and Data

Practice reviews

Children

The responsibility for how the system learns lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and at a local level with the safeguarding partners. Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:

- a) Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected.
- b) The child has died or been seriously injured.

Adults

The Care Act 2014 statutory guidance describes when a safeguarding adult review should be undertaken:

- a) When an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult.
- b) if an adult in its area has not died, but the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination Group knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

Overview

During the reporting period under review, there were two (2) Serious Case Reviews (SCR's) – Child N and Child K – and two (2) Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR's) – Adult C and 'Edith'.

Further details of the cases are available by following the link below:

Children

<https://www.wolverhampton safeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-children-and-young-people/wolverhampton-safeguarding-children-together/serious-case-reviews>

Adults

<https://www.wolverhampton safeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-adults/wolverhampton-safeguarding-adults-together/serious-cases-dhrs-sars>

Themes and Learning

Adults

Lesson Learnt	WST Response
<p>Edith; Escalation of Concerns; There were no agreed multi-agency procedures in place for professionals to meet to share information, and formulate multi-agency support, unless these met the criteria for being considered under the formal adult safeguarding procedures.</p>	<p>Monthly multi-disciplinary meetings are now taking place in each district with a core membership of social care staff, district nurses and the community matron. WST now seeks assurance from the relevant statutory partners that they are satisfied that agencies are applying robust systems and processes to maintain up to date information about a service user's GP, and contact numbers / email addresses for family members or informal carers to be contacted when circumstances require this.</p>
<p>Edith; Professionals to be able to recognise and respond to the possibility of coercive control, particularly when it is hidden, and its potential impairment on a person's mental capacity when making decisions about their care and treatment which includes controlling and coercive behaviour.</p>	<p>WST and the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership should seek assurance from its statutory partners that across the partnerships that: a. Professionals are equipped, through guidance and training, to recognise the indicators of possible coercive control and where this may be affecting a person's ability to make significant decisions such as those about their care and treatment b. There are quality assurance processes in place to support effective and consistent practice in the use of trigger questions and the multi-agency risk assessment tool for cases involving domestic abuse</p>
<p>Adult C; Adult C had been known to NHS Mental Health Services for many years. In the material that was gathered for the review, that the diagnosis of Adult C's mental health issues was not well understood and communicated to all those that were offering care and support. It is recorded by all agencies that Adult C had a diagnosis of epilepsy. It was also noted that Adult C had schizophrenia which in fact, was incorrect.</p>	<p>When Safeguarding boards are scoping cases that are referred for a SAR, it is crucial that factual accuracy is assessed. Agencies who hold information that may appear to contradict facts within a referral should update the board in order that decision making can be effective and terms of reference robust.</p>

Children

Lesson Learnt	WST Response
<p>Child K – Family members had concerns about Great Uncle’s mental health and they sought help on four occasions. Contact was again made with professionals on the evening of Child K’s death due to concerns about Great Uncle. He hadn’t slept for 72 hours and was clearly unwell.</p>	<p>Agencies should seek to understand the impact of a relative’s (or a regular visitor’s) mental health on the circumstances within a household where a child or vulnerable adult is present, particularly if their mental health doesn’t improve or gets worse.</p>
<p>Child N; The use of working agreements by the social worker was a feature of this case. Both parents and the child signed an agreement detailing expectations. The use of working agreements is widespread in social work practice, but the effectiveness of them is questionable; too often, as with Child N, children, young people and their families are not actively engaged in the development of them</p>	<p>The use of instructions and restrictions in working agreements for a child, young person and their family are not helpful in enabling them to make changes unless they are actively involved in developing them.</p>

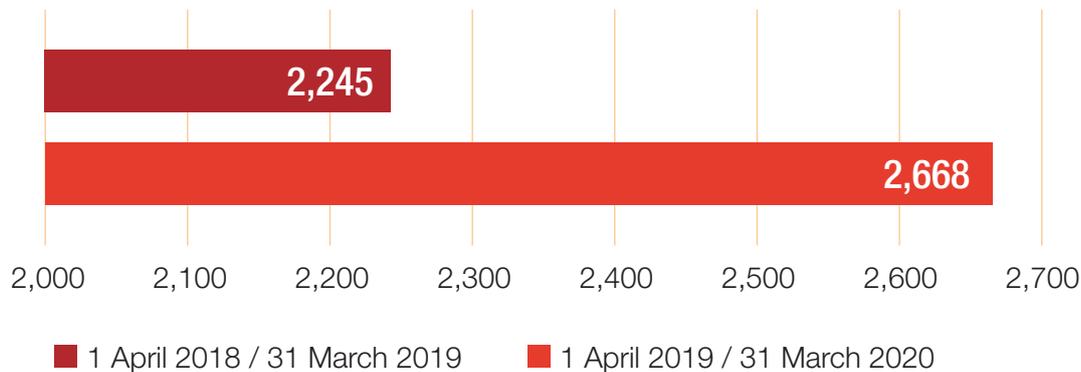
Adult Social Care – Assurance Data (1)

For context, it is important to state that that we always follows the six (6) guiding principles of safeguarding as defined by the Care Act 2014

www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/six-principles-adult-safeguarding

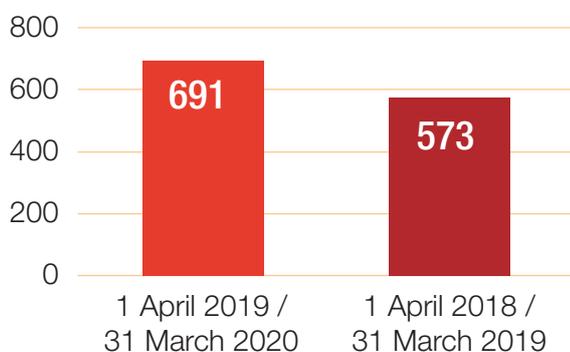
During the year under review, there was an 18.84% (or 423) increase in concerns registered with the City of Wolverhampton Adult Social Care v's 2018 / 2019. This could be partly explained due to increased attendance at numerous safeguarding training events across the city.

Total number of Safeguarding Concerns – 2020 v's 2019



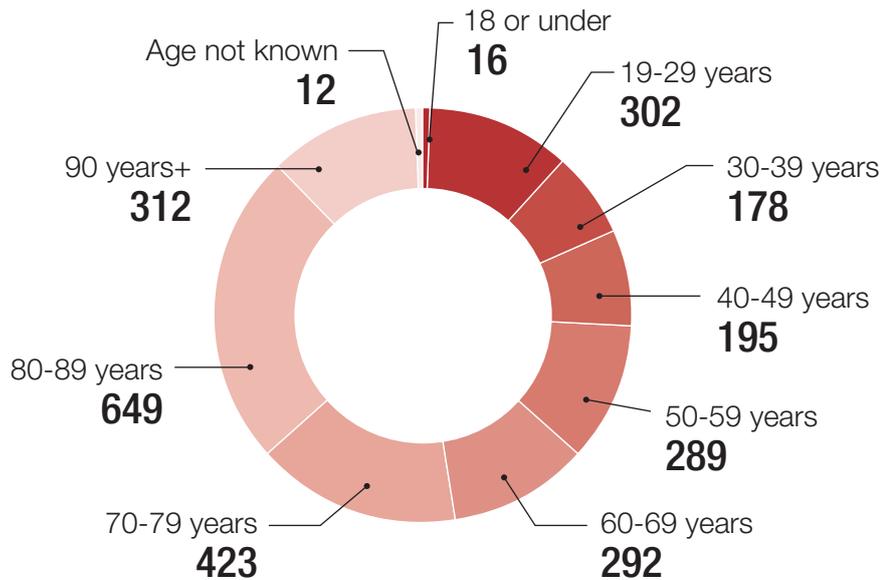
Of these, 691 led to s42 enquiries which equate to a 20.59% increase against the previous period

No. of concerns leading to s42 safeguarding enquiries 2019 / 2020 v's 2018 / 2019

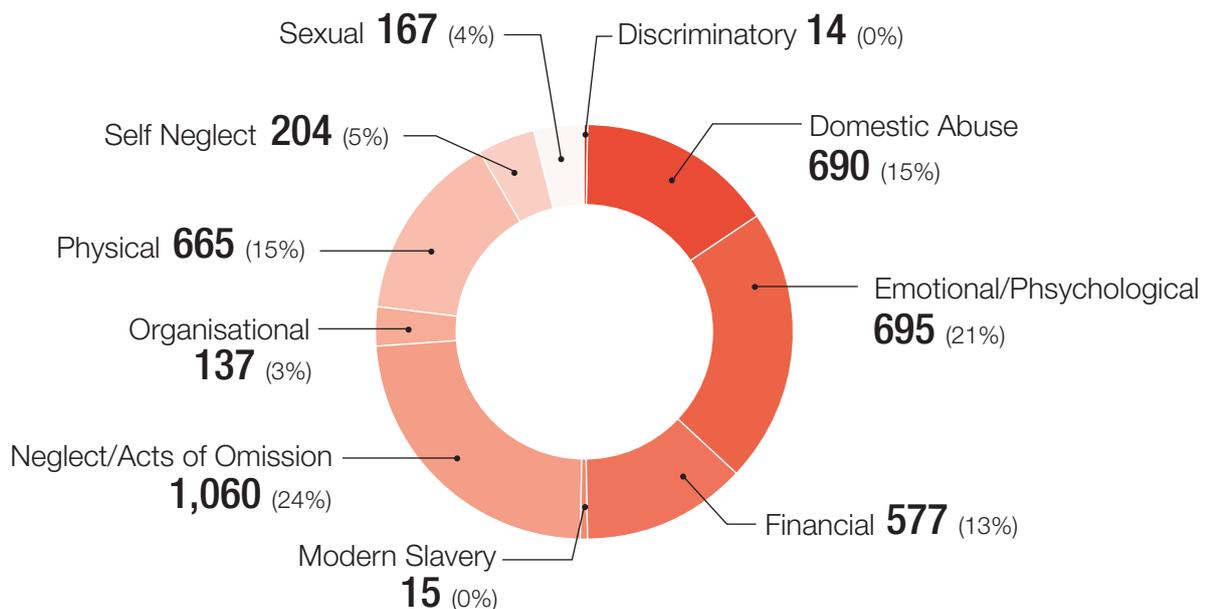


Adult Social Care – Assurance Data (2)

Age range bandings of concerns April 2019 – March 2020

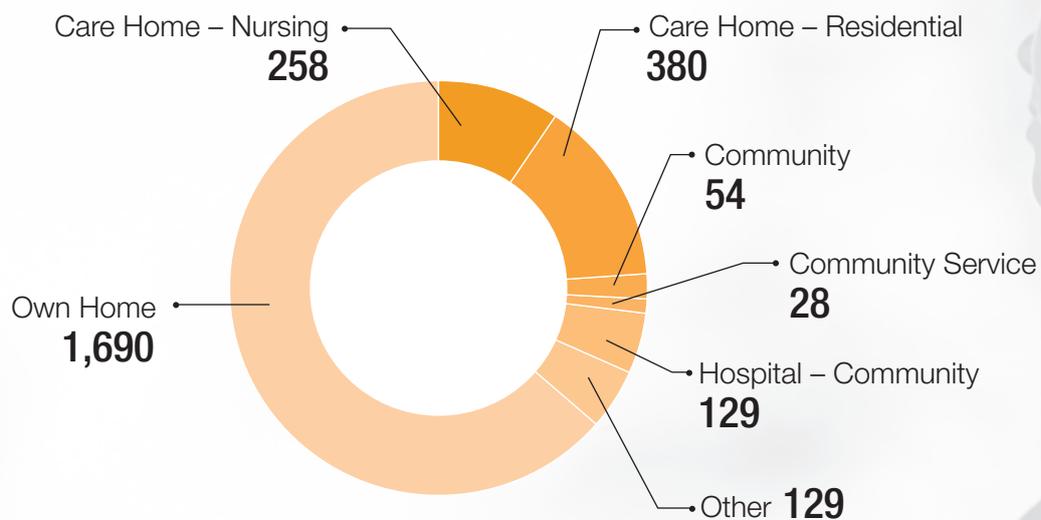


Types of concerns April 2019 – March 2020



Adult Social Care – Assurance Data (3)

Location of concerns April 2019 – March 2020



Protect People at Risk – Making Safeguarding Personal – MASH

The MASH (Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub) incorporates Adult and Children's Services in a central hub. The driver for this is to:

- Promote a more consistent approach to risk management and positive risk-taking alongside achieving desired outcomes
- Implement a whole family safeguarding approach

This year there has been a focus on multi-agency working and working with the Social Work teams in line with the 3 Conversations model:

Story of difference – 3 Conversations and Making Safeguarding Personal (Case Study)

Following a safeguarding concern from West Midlands police with regard to N and her adult son, the MASH made contact with N. N's elderly father also lived in the family home. N had reported to police that she has been physically, financially and verbally abused by her son, A, for the past 10 years. A was described as having mental health needs and when the MASH social worker asked N about her desired outcomes, she reported that all she wanted was for A to have support with his mental health. The MASH liaised with all of the relevant partner agencies (i.e. Police, Penn Hospital, etc.) and connected to MARAC where it was again made clear that N's desired outcome was to get help for A. It is also known that A witnessed domestic abuse between his parents when he was a child, although his father has not lived in the family home for many years.

A was arrested but N refused to make a statement. Therefore, he was released without charge. With A's permission, the MASH social worker asked the Mental Health social worker to make contact with A. This contact was made the following day whereas prior to 3 Conversations, A might have been placed on a waiting list and not spoken to anyone for some time.

A was very keen to be supported to move into his own accommodation and displayed insight into his behaviour toward his mother. He expressed appreciation to the Mental Health Social Worker for not being patronising, as he felt other people/agencies had not been as attentive to his feelings and what he felt would help him to stop harming his mother.

Supporting the wishes and needs of both N and A, A was supported to move out of the family home and into supported living with the goal of helping him to change his behaviour and take control of his life. N was connected to the Carer Support Team who completed a Carer's Conversation and given advice and support.

The multi-Agency response from the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA), Police, Mental Health, Adult Social Care, GP, Carer Support Team, and MARAC helped to secure positive outcomes for all concerned. A is now getting the help and support he needs and feels listened to for the first time. N has since reported that she is able to keep herself safe and said "I feel like me for the first time in a while." She also said that she now knows how to get support and where to go in order to keep safe. N will have an annual Carer's Conversation to make sure that she and her father have all of the support they require..

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) has been consistently well evidenced in the adult social care file audits in 2019-2020 and demonstrates MSP is well embedded into frontline safeguarding practice:

Quarter	Number of files where MSP was evidenced	Number of files audited for MSP
1	5	5
2	8	9
3	6	6
4*	2	2

* There were fewer audits in Q4 due to Covid-19



Modern Slavery

CWC received a total of 15 safeguarding concerns regarding Modern Slavery between 1st April 2019 and 31 March 2020. Of these concerns, 7 were assessed as having no risk identified (i.e. no evidence of modern slavery); 1 concern did not occur in Wolverhampton; 2 Risk identified and risk remains; 2 Risk identified and risk removed; 2 Risk inconclusive; 1 not enough information for risk to be identified.

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding is only as effective as the training that we provide to our safeguarding professionals and partners across our system. WST is extremely proactive with regards to our safeguarding training offerings and we have provided a great many courses. During the year under review, we have held 67 types of safeguarding training.

Whilst outside the period under review, we felt it important to state that all safeguarding courses which were due to take place in April and May 2020 during lockdown were cancelled but that we rebuilt training capability for the following period; all core safeguarding lead training was rescheduled to take place online via Teams. This included *A Shared Responsibility, Working Together, Thresholds to Support, Managing Allegations and Safer Recruitment*. Course content was adapted to work for online delivery.

Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum have also supported the WST partnership by providing free of charge online delivery of Rape and Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, coercive control and Stalking, Modern slavery and 'Honour'-Based Violence, Forced Marriage & FGM safeguarding training.

We have reduced the number of places on the online facility training initially to 10-15 but now increased to 20, to enable the trainers and delegates to adjust to the new delivery method – face to face training is usually for up to 32 delegates.

Every effort has been made to make the training as interactive as possible during online delivery. Despite fears that it would dilute the opportunity for sharing of views and a true multi-agency discussion, evaluation shows that the training has been well received with positive feedback from participants.

WST's current plan is to continue offering safeguarding training online until at least February 2021 and this will be reviewed in line with government recommendations.

- Wolverhampton IRO/CP Chair Team continued to host and attend regional IRO Practice Share meetings to work together on shared regional practice aims in line with National IRO priorities
- The Safeguarding Service delivered training to IROs and Social Workers (in the Children in Care, Transitions, Children and Young People with Disabilities and Fostering Teams) to support the roll-out of the Children in Care Review project.
- The Safeguarding Service have continued to deliver Best Practice for Child Protection Conferences and Child in Care Reviews to the Social Work Teams on a quarterly basis.
- The CP Conference Chairs now deliver training for best practice in Child Protection Conferences to multi-agency partners on a Quarterly basis. As this training programme continues, it is hoped that consistency will be achieved across partner agencies in their understanding of the approach to our Conferences in Wolverhampton and preparation for the meeting.

WST Priorities for 2020 – 2021

Ambitions and Priorities moving forward into 2020/2021

Key Themes and Priorities for 2020/2021:

- Continue to embed and strengthen the new WST arrangements; we will look to implement any recommendations made following the commissioning of the independent scrutineer.
- Improved-multi-agency working across partnership priorities and learning themes
- Implement and embed the expert by experience / participation of children and adults knowledge in terms of our Safeguarding eco system to improve our responses and thus make vulnerable people safer.
- Implement a Quality Assurance framework by seeking assurance of WST's safeguarding practice through multi agency audits / cross agency visits, capturing what difference(s) we have made and how we can improve our response(s)
- Widen learning and development opportunities following the feedback on the current face to face training offer undertaken by our workforce
- Following review of Contextual safeguarding across Wolverhampton, recommendations will need to be implemented.

Future Considerations

- The Board will continue to develop and strengthen its governance arrangements. Additionally, in the context of the COVID crisis, particularly the changes in relation to social distancing, client interactions, remote working and online meetings, it is important to maintain the focus on systems and processes.
- Ensuring the delivery of safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk of neglect or abuse in both a post-COVID or continuing-COVID environment.
- To progress and develop in the wider context of safeguarding children, young people and Adults by making links with key areas of safeguarding developments including the continuing focus on 'think family' as well as other important areas including contextual safeguarding and transitions.



Executive Summary

This report demonstrates the continued development and increased awareness of safeguarding children and safeguarding adults' issues within the partnership and Wolverhampton more generally.

The year has provided an opportunity to develop the innovative new arrangements currently established which has supported Wolverhampton's Safeguarding's *'Think Family'* approach.

In future, Wolverhampton's Safeguarding will continue to build on the work it has started in 2019-2020 and ensure new safeguarding practices are fully embedded and support the achievement of positive outcomes for children, young people and adults.

APPENDIX A

Partner Statements

Children and Young Adults – City of Wolverhampton Director of Children Services

- New partnership safeguarding arrangements, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together, were implemented in September 2019. The partnership continues to have a joint focus on children and adults and has strengthened further the 'think family' approach.
- Children's Services has continued its improvement journey and preparation for its impending inspection. The self-evaluation gives an overview of improvement since our last inspection where services were judged to be overall good. Some of the key achievements highlighted within the SEF include social work caseloads continue to be at a manageable level, an increase in the number of Wolverhampton foster carers meaning less use of external agencies and the development of the Culture of Belonging project to improve inclusion within schools. Areas identified for improvement are the ongoing recruitment and retention of social workers to ensure a stable workforce, implementing a single electronic record across children's services to support a holistic view of the child and family no matter who is supporting them and further improving the quality of assessment, support and planning for children in need of support to achieve the required outcomes and impact.
- Practice weeks have continued which see senior leaders across the directorate undertake audit activity with front line practitioners. The practice weeks have led to an increase in the number of good or outstanding cases as practitioners now sit alongside the auditor and bring the case alive. Other good practice that has been identified includes practitioners know their children, good use of strengths-based approaches and there is good collaborative working across partners. Areas that require further development are the timeliness and quality of assessments, continuing to strengthen our direct work with children and developing the use of restorative practice within schools and other partners supported by the Safeguarding Partnership.
- Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools' networks have been re-established and are now jointly planned between education and safeguarding to reflect the closer working between the two areas that has been strengthened since the merging of the Children's Services and Education directorates into one. The sessions have been well received and have been an opportunity to have open dialogue between schools' and the local authority about how best the system can support children and families to achieve the best outcomes.

- The local authority commissioned a review into Contextual Safeguarding and what they needed to do to respond to this emergent area of safeguarding. The review, carried out by an independent consultant, led to an action plan which included areas such as; revising the thresholds document to align with contextual safeguarding indicators, establishing a contextual safeguarding hub, ensuring systems and processes (such as referrals to Children's Services) support contextual safeguarding and reviewing existing meetings with a view to extending them to cover all aspects of exploitation rather than narrowly focussing on a single issue.
- The Power2 team is a multi-disciplinary team developed to help prevent at-risk young people in Wolverhampton from having to come into care. The team has initially focused on working with 11 to 17-year-olds where there are concerns around exploitation, instability in the home environment or where young people demonstrate high risk-taking behaviours. The team is multi-disciplinary and practices and approach which supports young people to recover from developmental and relational trauma.

Wolverhampton were successful in securing monies through the Controlling Migration Fund to support unaccompanied asylum seekers with a co-ordinated package of support in relation to their mental health. The project has been a success and delivered with partners including Black Country Healthcare Trust, Refugee and Migrant Centre and The Royal School. The impact includes achievement of educational outcomes above national averages for some children and the prevention of escalation of mental health and well-being issues.

City of Wolverhampton Council – Director of Adult Social Care

In order to support information sharing, Wolverhampton Adult Social Care has continued to host a bi-monthly CQC information sharing meeting. This has proven to be a very effective forum and partners include CQC, social care, CCG, commissioning and *Health Watch*.

These meetings have led to information sharing on care homes which has led to action being taken by various agencies including CQC and MASH. This multi-disciplinary approach has resulted in improved outcomes this year for the adults in the homes due to the assurance of safer practices being in place.

This year the Safeguarding Adults manager developed multi-agency pathway guidance for convening Concerns meetings as it had been identified through SARs and DHRs that better co-ordination and communication between services supporting adults (with or without care and support needs) was required.

Any professional or service with concerns can use this process to bring agencies together if the concerns are not appropriate for the usual safeguarding process. This is available on the WST website:

www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/images/Adult_multi-agency_pathway_-_guidance_for_convening_Concerns_meetings_V2_2020.pdf

CWC considers that adult safeguarding practices and systems are person-centred and robust due to the above and on the basis that this year there has been:

- Continuation of sound *Making Safeguarding Personal* practice evidenced in bi-monthly file audits
- Revision of the safeguarding enquiry and closure forms to reduce bureaucracy, duplication and ensure proportionality; a new shorter simplified adult referral form was introduced after consultation and briefings with all partners. The safeguarding closure form was deemed unnecessary and this is no longer in use across Adult Social Care / MASH.
- Regular audits of safeguarding timeliness alongside continued performance monitoring of achieved timescales

NHS Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group

Progress in 2019/20

- WCCG Designated and Named Safeguarding Leads have facilitated four Adult and Children training sessions for Primary Care. Two training sessions have also been delivered to the WCCG Governing Body, using local case studies and learning from CSPR's, DHR's and SAR's
- Safeguarding supervision has been provided for Named, Designated and Safeguarding Specialist professionals both in and out of area. This offer has been extended and now includes additional CCG staff which includes members of the Individual Care Team; the Send Lead and the Children's Commissioner
- In March 2020 Partner briefings were provided to inform Strategic Partners of the Business Critical Functions of the Safeguarding Team during the Response phase of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Weekly newsletters were also formulated and circulated to keep Providers informed of the changing legislation, guidance and information related to Covid-19 and associated safeguarding arrangements
- External and internal audits/assurances were completed, and feedback demonstrated a high level of confidence in the WCCG Safeguarding arrangements (completion of the NHSE S-CAT, external audit and WST/WDVF assurance submissions)

WST

- The Designated Nurses (DN) for Safeguarding (Adults and Children) were part of the Task and Finish Group that led on the development of the new Statutory Partnership Arrangements. The Chief Nursing Officer of the Black Country and West

Birmingham CCGs is currently the Chair of the Executive Group for WST

- The DN's for Safeguarding (Adults and Children) led the development of the WST One Panel which brought together three previous groups – Learning Review Committee; Safeguarding Adult Review Committee; and the Domestic Homicide Review Panel into one
- The Deputy DN Safeguarding Children led on the development and launch of the Wolverhampton Neglect Strategy for Children and Young People 2019-2022 within which the WeCAN tool is embedded to be used as the Neglect assessment tool within the city
- The Designated Safeguarding Leads have fully participated in Statutory Reviews for both Children and Adults, participation in or chairing review panels, both in and out of area

STP

- Wolverhampton CCG DN has led a STP Safeguarding Working Group; the purpose of the group is to reduce unwarranted variation in issues relating to safeguarding, adults, children and young people in care to ensure a consistent approach where appropriate across the Black Country and West Birmingham STP. A number of work streams were agreed to progress this work including the development of a Safeguarding Strategy for the STP
- The Designated Adult Safeguarding Lead led an STP wide work stream to review the Provider Safeguarding Performance Framework and the Safeguarding Assurance Framework. These are now being used by Providers

- Two NHSE funded safeguarding learning events took place for all staff across the STP; the adult learning event was led by the Adult Lead from Walsall CCG supported by the Designated Adult Safeguarding Lead from Wolverhampton CCG; and the children's event 'Our voice Our Shoes' was led by Wolverhampton CCG Deputy DN and was co-produced with children from across the STP

ADULTS

Progress in 2019/20

- Submission of an entry into the Health Service Journal Patient Safety Awards in the category of NHS Safeguarding, for a collaborative project (Empowerment of hard to reach communities in the prevention of violence against women and girls) with the Wolverhampton Refugee and Migrant Centre and Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum. It has been shortlisted as a finalist and the awards ceremony is in November 2020
- Successful evaluation of the GP Domestic Violence Training and Support Project
- Funding secured from the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit to:
 - provide domestic abuse support and resources to Primary Care during the Covid 19 Pandemic
 - raise awareness of the illegalities and long term harms associated with violence against women and girls. There was a focus on recruiting community champions, and disseminating signposting leaflets and help-seeking resources into communities in order to cascade key messages
- Significant progress with the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review Programme (LeDeR). All NHSE Targets were met and

there was successful recruitment of a LeDeR Coordinator and a LeDeR Administrator

- Full participation in all aspects of Covid 19 Response including the WST Covid Response Group and the Homelessness Task Force Group

CHILDREN

Progress in 2019/20

- The DN Safeguarding Children facilitated a group including representatives from the Local Authority, Acute Provider organisation, NHSE Digital and the CCG to ensure CP-IS was introduced and implemented across the city
- The Deputy DN continues to chair MASH 'health ' meetings to ensure continuous improvements to process and practice, provide ongoing support for practitioners and escalation of ongoing issues or concerns
- The DN for Children and Young People in Care (CYPiC) has developed:
 - a robust notification process for CYPiC who are placed in / out of W-ton. There are sound communication system with other CCG's and Providers teams to ensure health issues are addressed when a child is placed in another area
 - close working with CCG Children's commissioner and CAMHS Clinical Specialist (External Placement Panel) to ensure CYPiC placed in specialist placements are receiving care that meets their individual needs and is value for money
 - a dashboard to enable a sound oversight of those CYPiC placed 50 mile plus for whom the WCCG remain responsible

West Midlands Police

The West Midlands Police (WMP, Wolverhampton) presents its progress with regards to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults during 2019-20 as one of the statutory partners within WST

Contribution to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Partnership

West Midlands Police operates on both a geographical and thematic model. Wolverhampton has a dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU) with the NPU Commander being the strategic lead for the WST partnership. In addition, there is representation in the WST and the sub-groups from a senior leader in the Public Protection Unit (PPU), Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID), and other NPU leaders. The PPU lead chairs the priority sub-group for Exploitation (children).

Building an effective workforce

Our Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) appointed 3 new criminal exploitation co-ordinators to cover the Black Country area – with one being dedicated to Wolverhampton. Their roles is to attend partnership safety planning meetings to share information and help safeguard the young person. They also act as a bridge between the safeguarding of the child and any criminal investigation that may be ongoing. This mirrors the existing support to CSE safeguarding which has been in place from the public protection unit previously, and which continues now.

Local policing now ensure attendance at strategy discussions for young people at risk of CCE and where that young person may also be at risk of gang exploitation, consideration is

given for a gangs offender manager to attend and contribute.

The Public Protection Unit (PPU) commenced a recruitment campaign in early 2020 aiming to fill all vacancies in the department by September 2021. This campaign saw a number of new officers join the department on child abuse, domestic abuse, and sexual offence investigation teams.

An additional police officer was also invested into the MASH to assist with managing demand and to provide early police support to information sharing as a result of referrals. This was also complemented by moving 3 other police officers into the MASH to support multi agency joint visits to children. These officers now form the MAET (multi agency enquiry team). This co-location of staff ensures a more consistent working relationship, and earlier visits to children who need to be seen by both police and a social worker.

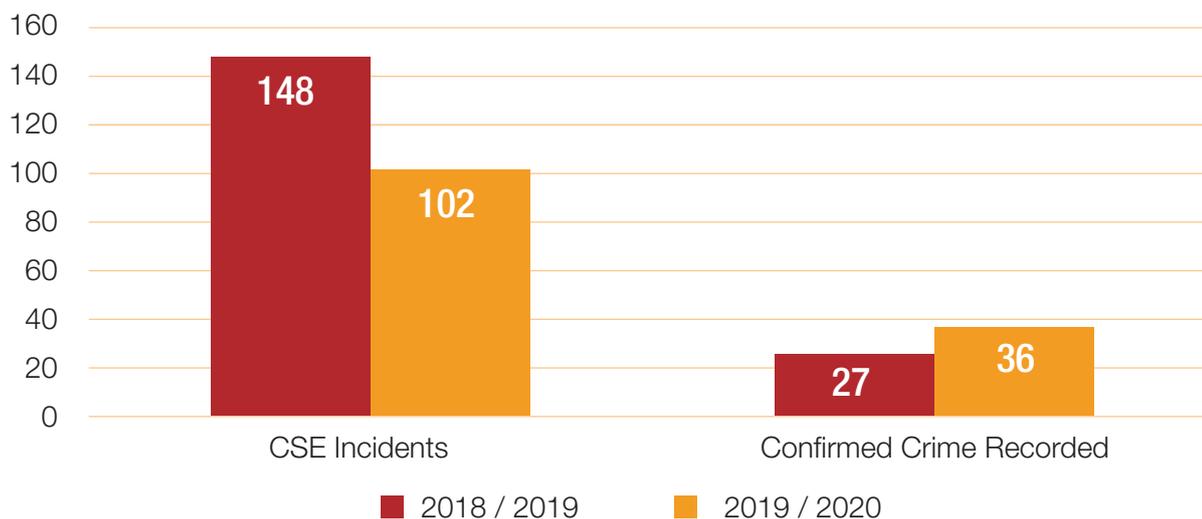
Celebrating Successes & Contributions to safeguarding

In 2019/20, recorded Child Abuse incident fell by the first time in a number of years from 2,654 child abuse related incidents in 2018/19 to 2,600 this year. The development of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub in Wolverhampton initially lead to a steady increase in recorded incidents as both the public and agencies working with children were able to more easily make safeguarding referrals, including crime, without needing to know exactly which agency to go to. These referrals allow for a more rapid assessment of risk, better information sharing, and ensures that the relevant agencies agree to the next steps at the earliest opportunity. The additional officer invested into the

Wolverhampton MASH by West Midlands Police has assisted in ensuring this increased demand is appropriately dealt with. To see recorded child abuse incidents decrease is in part a result of the MASH working consistently for a number of years and now leading to a reduction in incidents recorded by WMP.

Within these child abuse figures are incidents recorded by WMP with a CSE (child sexual exploitation) marker.

Child Sexual Exploitation Reported v's Confirmed Crime Reported



These incidents have reduced at a greater rate than the overall child abuse incidents. In 2018/19 there were 148 CSE incidents recorded in Wolverhampton, with only 18% of these leading to a confirmed crime being recorded. In 2019/20 there were 102 CSE incidents but with 35% of these leading to a crime being recorded. As a crime is usually only recorded when either a victims confirms this or when there is other evidence available to do so, this would suggest that despite CSE incidents falling it is now far more likely that police and other agencies are able to find supportive evidence, or to support a victim in making a disclosure of a crime.

Cadet Programme

In 2019, Wolverhampton police launched the Police Cadet Programme locally. Police Cadets had been trialled in other areas in WMP and based on the success and uptake has now been expanded. There is one cadet unit in Wolverhampton based in a secondary school. This involves volunteer cadet leaders – both police officers/staff and volunteers from outside of policing – running a youth support programme for 13-17 year olds with a focus on policing and public service. Any child can be referred into the programme, including young people with additional safeguarding needs or

subject to Early Help. There are plans to expand into a second cadets unit in the next financial year. The Wolverhampton WMP child protection lead provides the safeguarding training for the cadet leaders.

Operation Encompass

This is where WMP notify Wolverhampton schools when one of their pupils is exposed to a domestic abuse incident – continued in 2019/20 after a trial in 2018. This process ensures that schools are informed of an incident which may have adversely affected a child in the previous 24 hours so that staff can understand the factors that may be affecting that child in school and provide appropriate support if required. This is in addition to any information sharing as a result of a referral that meets the threshold for MASH.

In 2019 West Midlands Police changed practice in relation to the risk assessment and recording of missing persons, including children. Where previously there had been use of an “absent” category, which did not result in recording on the COMPACT system (for recording missing persons) and no automatic reporting to the local authority this has now changed. “Absent” reporting has been replaced with “no apparent risk” as a category and regardless of risk assessment the missing person will be placed on COMPACT and an automatic referral made to the relevant local authority. This has resulted in a much higher number of children being referred to the local authority and subsequently receiving a return home interview.

Vulnerable Adults

During 2020, Wolverhampton Police have received a much higher number of internal referrals for Vulnerable Adults. The majority of these referrals have been Mental Health Related. Partnership working between MASH, Penn Hospital and GP’s throughout Wolverhampton has resulted in these individuals receiving the support they need at the right time. We carry out a process for any victims of Distraction Burglaries – including older and vulnerable residents – whereby the local neighbourhood team visit, referrals are made to WV Trading Standards, Safer Wolverhampton Partnerships and MASH (based on individual need).

Hate Crime

A dedicated Hate Crime champion was appointed in 2020. During Hate Crime Awareness Week joint visits were conducted with the Taxi Licensing department to several taxi ranks in order to raise awareness around identifying Hate Crime and how to report concerns to police and other agencies.

Several secondary school inputs have taken place within the Wolverhampton area raising awareness of Hate Crime. We are currently planning the delivery of 3rd party reporting in conjunction with the Safer Partnerships Team.

City of Wolverhampton Council – Education

Ofsted inspection in November 2019 identified the following strengths:

- Managers have strong relationships with many city-wide agencies. They use these very well to develop appropriate policies and procedures to safeguard learners. Managers provide highly effective support for learners experiencing difficulties. They refer learners promptly for extra support when they need it.
- Leaders adopt safe recruitment practices. They make appropriate checks to ensure that permanent and agency staff who work with learners are safe to do so.
- City of Wolverhampton Council audit undertaken of safer recruitment practices and recommendations implemented.
- Implemented improved web filtering system providing a secure and safe digital environment, with reporting functionality.

Safeguarding training offered and completed:

- Workshop in Raising Awareness in Prevent (WRAP) sessions for all new staff, volunteers and sub-contractors
- Refresher WRAP sessions delivered for over 75 members of staff
- Modern Day Slavery awareness sessions delivered to ESOL practitioners city wide
- Modern Day Slavery awareness sessions delivered to staff
- VAWG Community Champion Training

Initiatives worked on during the period under review:

- Improved web filtering
- Promotion of British Values
- *Prevent* staff training

West Midlands Fire and Rescue

West Midlands Fire and Rescue progress with regards to safeguarding children and young people during 2019-20:

Independent Safeguarding Review

At the end of 2019, the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) published the Fire and Rescue Service Guidance and Self-Assessment toolkit. This has been used to inform the implementation of the independent safeguarding scrutiny review recommendations.

WMFS have secured some sector specific (Fire & Rescue Service) level 3 and level 4 Safeguarding training and Safer Recruitment training. The training will be accessed during the current financial year.

[NFCC Guidance publications/Prevention/Safeguarding_Guidance.pdf](#)

Since the independent scrutiny review of safeguarding was completed at the end of 2018/2019, work on the action plan has been ongoing to ensure WMFS has appropriate safeguarding systems. The review of the policy was the first stage of this. The new Safeguarding Policy improves the oversight of recording of concerns raised and actions taken as a result. This allows for quality assurance and analysis of data from concerns.

Prevention

As a direct result of a recent local safeguarding adults review, and regional and national learning, WMFS launched its Fire Safety Guidance E-Learn package in the autumn of 2019. The launch was centred around CPD events relating to learning from serious and fatal fires and were held across all local authority areas within the West Midlands. This e-learn package has been developed to provide support and guidance to those professionals who work with the most vulnerable to fire

Complex Needs Officers

WMFS has a team of 26 Complex Needs Officers (CNO's). This group of staff are operational personnel who have additional training including an apprentice based in Health & Social Care. They have access to a broad range of training on health and lifestyle themes. This training provides them with enhanced knowledge to support those in our communities with complex needs and chaotic lifestyles. The CNO's work routinely with partner agencies and organisations to support these individuals and reduce the impact of their needs on themselves, their community and agencies. Working to improve outcomes for these individuals reduces vulnerability to, and the likelihood of abuse/neglect and the need for safeguarding. Professional supervision and support provide oversight and assurance that cases are handled appropriately, and that risk is identified and escalated where appropriate.

West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust

Priorities in 2019-20

- Assure Trust processes by driving consistency and improvement in safeguarding practice
- Continue to build on effective relationships internally and externally, including WST
- Monitor the Trust's Safeguarding processes and compliance
- Support the Trust with Safeguarding practice and requirements.

What we did

- Excellent Governance and Assurance of Trusts safeguarding processes and compliance.
- Secured funding for all Paramedics to have 2 days face to face training in Safeguarding level 3 in both Adults and Children. This will include staff in both of our Emergency Operations Centre and our Integrated Urgent Care Centre. Currently on hold due to COVID but will recommence in Spring 2021.
- 36% increase in Adult safeguarding and Care and welfare concerns from the previous year (2018 / 2019) and a 6% increase in safeguarding children's referrals
- Continued involvement with multiple workstreams across the region including DHR's, SAR's, LCSPR's, CDOP and JAR meetings, Child Alerts and Court cases.
- Managed increased demand both in Safeguarding and across the Trust during COVID
- Successful Pilot and introduction of CP-IS in both the Emergency Operations Centre and for frontline staff.
- Relocation of the Single Point of Contact into the Emergency Operations Centre providing resilience and consistency.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT)

RWT has a Safeguarding Team covering the children, adult, maternity and learning disability agenda and works throughout the whole of the organisation delivering training, supervision and advice. The Named Nurses are also part of the partnership team working within Wolverhampton MASH.

Training

RWT Safeguarding Training (Children and Adult Levels 1-4) has been monitored on a monthly basis. Overall training compliance has remained over 90% (on average for all areas). All training was adapted to be delivered electronically in view of COVID restrictions. RWT also delivered training on PREVENT and Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). Domestic violence training was incorporated into all subject packages.

Supervision

All Named Safeguarding Professionals were able to access personal supervision on a quarterly basis throughout 2019/20.

Midwifery supervision compliance was also monitored and over 95% of identified staff received supervision within the timescales.

Safeguarding Advice

Throughout 2019/20 the RWT Safeguarding Service provided an advice call function to the Trust (Monday to Friday 9-5). The number of calls received for children was 571, remaining static from the previous period in 2018/19 and was very well received helping to address issues promptly.

Early Intervention Services

RWT have worked collaboratively with City of Wolverhampton Council and Public Health to host an early help facilitator post working across

the Trust (focusing on maternity and children service) to provide support with additional early help training, to advise on the services available within the community and to ensure referrals into this service are increasing.

Safeguarding within Urgent Care Settings during 2019/20

We have improved awareness of vulnerability within Emergency Department, Urgent Care, Paediatrics and Maternity through the implementation of the child protection information sharing system (CP-IS).

CQC inspection 2019

The Trust was inspected during 2019 and rated 'good' overall. Safeguarding was a focus of the inspection and some actions were identified and subsequently addressed in relation to raising awareness of MCA/DoLS. Focused work throughout 2020 continues to raise awareness of the MCA/DoLS within the Trust.

NHS External Review 2020

In February 2020, NHS England were commissioned to undertake a review of the Safeguarding service, with a specific focus on structure, leadership, education, policies, DoLS and learning disability services. The findings demonstrated that investment in safeguarding was evident and commendable. Safeguarding could be seen as central to the quality of care for patients and the wider community who access the Trust. Although no specific recommendations were made, suggestions to make the service 'even better' included a focus on 'think family' and to continue with the engagement of the local Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP).

Health Watch Wolverhampton

Healthwatch Wolverhampton was established to act as the statutory, independent consumer champion for health and social care services in Wolverhampton. Our roles and responsibilities include:

- Obtaining the views of local people regarding their need for, and experiences of, local health and care services and importantly to make these views known
- Promoting and supporting the involvement of local people in the commissioning, the provision and scrutiny of local health and care services
- Enabling local people to monitor the standard of provision of local health and care services and whether and how local care services could and ought to be improved
- Providing advice, signposting and information about access to local health and care services so choices can be made about these
- Producing reports and recommendations about how local health and care services could or ought to be improved. These should be directed to commissioners and providers of care services and people responsible for managing or scrutinising local care services and shared with Healthwatch England and CQC, Healthwatch Wolverhampton is also

able to raise relevant issues at a number of strategic boards including Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Board and highlight issues raised with us locally or through our work with local care and health organisations. This allows us to provide challenge and highlight issues raised by local people in the development and delivery of local strategies. Our contribution to safeguarding 2019-20 In terms of safeguarding, Healthwatch has:

- supported the work of the Safeguarding Board, to ensure that the patient's/ local people's voice is central to service planning and in any case reviews
- ensured that our Board, staff and volunteers are trained to understand and follow up any safeguarding concerns identified by us or raised with us in our work locally

We have been able to reinforce the issue of engagement and involvement of local people and communities in service development and delivery across partner organisations. We have been able to use the experience of our 'Enter and View' activity in care homes to inform our contribution to Board discussions. We welcome the commitment to improving engagement and understanding of safeguarding across all communities.

Black Country Healthcare NHS FT

In 2019-2020 BCHFT was still a standalone Trust, as in Black Country Partnership NHST. During this time BCPFT, under their Section 11 and Working Together 2018 statutory duties supported Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together by achieving the following:

- Facilitated level 3 safeguarding training to all staff in Wolverhampton based services to assist them in safeguarding children and families and providing them with the skills required for their roles
- The Wolverhampton and Sandwell Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) and Named Nurses have benefitted from the additional support and resilience in Wolverhampton and Sandwell that has come from two new WTE staff in post
- The Prevent Training was embedded within the Safeguarding Children Level 3 training as well as Adults.
- Safeguarding Children's Supervision Policy was revised and roll out commenced as part of an implementation plan. It was updated to reflect best practice, the staff groups that required or would benefit from supervision and the process is now mandated for certain staff groups.
- Staff have continued to access the question and answer sessions that are facilitated by the Team and within the Wolverhampton and numbers of staff accessing these was increasing from the 2018-19 figures
- Safeguarding team actively support MARAC and MASH systems and processes and work with partners and colleagues to ensure that timely information sharing assists in keeping the most vulnerable adults and children safeguarded

Voluntary and Community Organisations (VCO's)

Wolverhampton's Voluntary and Community Sector provides a wide range of support and activities for children, young people, families, adults (including adults at risk and adults with care and support needs), and communities. There are more than 700 local voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) including approximately 260 faith groups. The sector is supported by Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (WVSC), the local infrastructure support organisation which also acts as a source of support in relation to safeguarding for local VCOs.

The sector provides a wide range of universal support in the community, plus an extensive breadth of more specialist support including support related to: substance misuse, mental health and emotional wellbeing, housing; older people; domestic abuse; youth violence / gangs; people who are disabled or who have learning disabilities or special educational needs; children and young people excluded from school; people leaving prison; and new arrivals / refugees.

In 2019-20 the contribution of the local voluntary and community sectors has included:

- 8 Local VCOs providing a voluntary / community sector perspective on WST's Priority and Standing groups (One Panel, Early Help, Communities and Engagement, Exploitation, Learning and Improvement) and Task and Finish groups
- VCOs contributing to the safeguarding training programme e.g. Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum provide domestic abuse and Interpersonal Violence training.
- Local VCOs successfully applying for external funds to enhance local support to adults at risk / with care and support needs, and children, young people and families which will keep them safe from harm e.g. around exploitation and gangs / youth violence
- WVSC continuing to provide strategic and operational safeguarding support to the local VCOs including:
 - Supporting the development of suitable safeguarding arrangements including reviewing developing safeguarding policy and procedures.
 - Supporting local VCOs with safeguarding decision-making, linking to MASH, Early Help and support available from WST partners.
 - Increasing access to safeguarding training for local VCOs (both single-agency and multi-agency training)
- More participants from VCOs attending WST's safeguarding training offer
- Continuing, and increasing, engagement with and support for the 260+ faith organisations to enhance their safeguarding awareness and arrangements (this work is funded by WST)
- Interfaith Wolverhampton led a successful request to WST Learning and Improvement Group to establish a 'Safeguarding in Faith' Train the Trainer programme.

Wolverhampton Homes

Wolverhampton Homes continues to make progress in relation to both safeguarding children and young people and adults at risk, emphasising the importance of our role at all times to staff and those who work on our behalf across the communities we serve.

We have safeguarding policies and procedures in place that outline how staff should respond to safeguarding issues both in terms of households living in temporary accommodation and when they are settled in a home of their own. We also have a policies and procedures relating to staff in relation to domestic violence recognising that safeguarding is not just about those people we work for but is also about those people we work with.

We are also working towards accreditation in terms of our response to domestic violence. The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance's (DAHA) mission is to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process.

Accreditation standards have 8 priority areas including policy & procedure, case management, risk management, partnership working, perpetrator management, equality & diversity, staff training and publicity & awareness. We know that gaining accreditation is by no means easy, but we are committed to ensuring our response to people who live with domestic violence, both as victims, their children and perpetrators is appropriate and promotes partnership working with other agencies to manage and reduce risk wherever possible.

Our contractors are also well-versed in terms of our safeguarding procedures and know how to recognise and report any concerns they have. With large scale projects being delivered by Wolverhampton Homes and with regular access into some 20,000 homes, it is vital that our contractors are as able to respond to any concerns disclosed or identified as our own staff.

Training continues to be a key priority with staff attending courses in-house and also courses provided by Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together. Consideration is currently being given to a new programme of safeguarding / domestic violence training across all front-line staff to, once again, improve identification and response to safeguarding concerns

Staffordshire and West Midlands CRC and the National Probation Service

For SWM and the NPS, safeguarding is a crucial role and we are well placed to identify service users who pose a risk of harm to children and/or situations wherein a child may experience poorer outcomes due to the behaviour or circumstances of their parents/carers.

In the NPS and CRC, work during 2019-2020 has focused on completing children safeguarding and domestic abuse refresher training for all operational staff. This has focused on ensuring that staff understand the working together 2018 arrangements, embedding the Early Help offer and emphasising the importance of understanding contextual safeguarding in our assessments. We now know more about Adverse Childhood Experiences, the inter-generational impact of these and the importance of intervening earlier to prevent or reduce the negative impact and how the work carried out by our Probation Practitioners can contribute to positive life-long changes for children now and future generations.

Locally NPS and CRC have a strong Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Team in place working closely with partners to supervise and support the borough's most prolific offenders. We have a dedicated specialist Women's Team delivering supporting female services from Willenhall CHART Centre enabling vulnerable women to access a range of additional community support service in the local area.

NPS second a full time member of staff into the MASH Team. The role has recently expanded to include work for the Youth Offender Services to improve their foot print within the MASH as part of our jointed up work.

NPS and CRC continue to explore opportunities with MASH to enable us to ensure families are identified and supported effectively. As members of the Community Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Children's Board we continue to work in partnership with key agencies in the Borough to safeguard families and protect the public.

APPENDIX B

Covid-19 Statement – 2020

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together is a multi-agency partnership made up of many organisations all with one aim in mind, to protect the welfare of vulnerable children, adults and families in Wolverhampton.

Whilst our report is defined by the period 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 and the pandemic had not yet fully taken hold, we wanted to update the public with measures that CWC and more specifically WST put in place to mitigate this.

At the pandemic's earliest stage, whilst following government guidance, WST Executive Group made a number of important decisions including pausing workstreams which allowed members to be re-assigned to other areas of immediate concern. In addition, the WST Executive Group created a WST COVID-19 Response Group, with the aspiration of supporting partnership working throughout the pandemic. Finally, the WST Executive Group felt that it was critical in continuing with the Scrutiny and Assurance Co-ordination and Executive Group meetings as part of business as usual.

The Covid-19 Response Group was established with the remit to report into the WST Scrutiny and Assurance Group, with members being recruited from within our existing partnerships. The over-riding emphasis of this group was in three parts defined as follows:

- a) Statutory responsibilities
- b) Communication
- c) Business as usual operations, wherever possible.

City of Wolverhampton have stayed at stage 2 throughout the majority of the pandemic and have not implemented any easements. We have carried out a public consultation on our local approach to Care Act easements, which sets out what we would have explored before we consider implementation of any easement and this can be viewed by following the link below

<https://consultation.wolverhampton.gov.uk/cw/c/care-act-easement-procedure>

In summary, City of Wolverhampton Council have operated under essential visits only in line with national guidance and also have guidance in place locally. We have access to PPE and other forms of protection, as well as taking into account risk of infection and human rights.

APPENDIX C

Glossary of Terms

ACRP	Adult Case Review Panel	LDU	Local Delivery Unit
A&E	Accident and Emergency	LeDeR	Learning Disability Mortality Review
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour	LPA	Local Policing Area
ASC	Adult Social Care	MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
BCHFT	Black Country Healthcare NHS FT	MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
CCRP	Children's Case Review Panel	MCA	Mental Capacity Act
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel	MOJ	Ministry of Justice
CWC	City of Wolverhampton Council	NHS	National Health Service
CWC ASC	City of Wolverhampton Adult Social Care	NPS / RRP	National Probation Service / Reducing Reoffending Partnership
CWC CS	City of Wolverhampton Children Services	OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services & Skills
CFP	Children & Families Practice	PVP	Protecting Vulnerable People
CFLT	Children and Families Leadership Team	RWT	The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
CJB	Criminal Justice Board	SAR	Safeguarding Adults Review
CP-IS	Child Protection Information Sharing	SCR	Serious Case Review
CR-MARAC	Community Risk-Multi-Agency Risk Assessment	STP	Sustainability and Transformation Partnership
CSC	Children's Social Care	VARM	Vulnerable Adults Risk Management
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation	WVCOS	Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Sector
CSP	Community Safety Partnership	WMAS	West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Trust FT
CQC	Care Quality Commission	WMFS	West Midlands Fire Service
CuSP	Custody Support Plan	WMP	West Midlands Police
DoLS	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards	WCCG	Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group
ED	Emergency Department	WST	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together
ELPIS	Police 'missing' data system		
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation		
FII	Fabricated or Induced Illness		
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer		



CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL



CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 9 December 2020
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Report title	Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-23 Publication	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre Education and Skills	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Children's Services	
Accountable employee	Robert Hart	Head of Service, Inclusion and Empowerment
	Tel	07900708201
	Email	robert.hart@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board	21 October 2020
	Children and Young People Leadership Team	22 October 2020

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Endorse and support the implementation of the Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-23 (appendix 1), as approved by Children and Families Together Board.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The publication of the easy read version of the Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-23 (appendix 2)

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This paper seeks endorsement of the published Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2020-2023 and support for its implementation.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The current Special Educational Needs and Disabilities strategy comes to an end in 2020.
- 2.2 On 24 September 2020 Children and Families Together Board approved the publication on the Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-23.
- 2.3 The SEND Strategy has been developed by the SEND Partnership Board and demonstrates their commitment to making sure children and young people with SEND and their families have an equal opportunity to achieve a good quality ordinary life. It supports our ten-year Children, Young People and Families Plan which aims to improve the resilience, health and emotional wellbeing of children, young people and families in Wolverhampton.
- 2.4 The strategy has been developed in co-production with children and young people, their families and a range of professionals. It also draws upon data from:
- What families and young people said at the Spotlight on SEND event 2019
 - What families said in the Voice 4 Parents Annual parent Survey 2019
 - What families, young people and professionals said in the Citizen Lab events in 2019
 - What children and young people said at the Real Talk event 2018.
 - Feedback of families, young people and professionals during the consultation on the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Community SEND Health Strategy.
 - Responses to the consultation on the draft Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023, held from 14 July 2020 to 21 September 2020.
- 2.5 The SEND Visioning Day was held on 4 October 2019. The aim of the SEND visioning day, 'Spotlight on SEND', was to help us understand the lived experiences of families and to find out what's working well and where improvements can be made. This feedback, along with other information and performance data, will help to shape our priorities over the next five years so that professionals and the people who use services, can work together to create services and support that families need, enabling them to live ordinary and fulfilling lives. The event was designed and delivered with young people, parents, carers and representatives of the Council (CWC) and CCG. 120 places were made available for
- 50 parents and carers

- 15 young people
- 45 professionals from education, health, and social care services
- 10 people from other voluntary and community organisations

- 2.6 Voice4Parents distributed their annual parent survey to 110 of their wider group members and also promoted the survey via social media, at the Gem Centre and in Wolverhampton's special schools, inviting all parents and carers in Wolverhampton to complete it. The survey closed in September 2019 and received responses from 89 parents and carers.
- 2.7 Between January and November 2019, City of Wolverhampton Council has worked with Birmingham City University and University of Wolverhampton on to undertake a "Citizen Lab" focusing on school exclusions and related issues. A Citizen Lab Workshop was held on 2-3 October 2019 bringing together approximately 80 key stakeholders, including young people, parents, people with lived experience, professionals, and academics.
- 2.8 Changing Our Lives hosted a Real Talk event In June 2018, to give young people an opportunity to influence and shape the City's future priorities around special educational needs and disability (SEND). Real Talk focused on the attitudes and expectations that young people in the City experience. At the event, young people discussed transport, preparing for the future and designing an inclusive city. Twenty-one students aged 12 – 18 years old from Wolverhampton College, Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre, Penn Fields School, Highfields School and Heath Park School attended the Real Talk event. Sixteen students had special education needs and/or disabilities and five did not have any additional needs. Three students were from BME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) communities (one Indian, two African Caribbean) and 18 were White British.
- 2.9 Wolverhampton CCG consulted on and published the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group Community SEND Health Strategy during 2019. The strategy was developed to galvanise partners and stakeholders around an agreed direction to the development and implementation of SEND Community Health provision and joint commissioning arrangements over the next three years and is part of the City-wide SEND Strategy. As part of this consultation the views of 25 parents, eight young people and 43 professionals were considered.
- 2.10 The City of Wolverhampton Council received 96 responses, to the consultation on the draft SEND Strategy, from a range of stakeholders including, Children and young people, parents/carers, members of school staff, voluntary sector council organisations, Wolverhampton Councillors and SEND professionals. In general, the feedback was largely supportive of the vision, priorities and SEND Strategy as a whole. There were some recommendation made to strengthen, clarify and amend the SEND Strategy which were approved by Children and Families Together Board and incorporated in the final version of the strategy prior to publication. A summary of the responses to the SEND Strategy Consultation is available in appendix 3.

2.11 In order to understand the needs and priorities for the strategy, SEND Partnership Board also drew from a number of other sources of information, including:

- Wolverhampton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Children and Young People with SEND 2019
- The Children, Young People and Families Plan for Wolverhampton 2015-2025
- City of Wolverhampton Council Plan 2019-2024
- Wolverhampton Challenge Board's Ordinary Lives White paper 2017
- Recommendations from the Changing Our Lives Quality of Life Review 2019
- Recommendations from the Children's to Adults Services Case File Audit 2019
- Recommendations from Short Breaks Review 2019
- Recommendations from Alternative Provision Review 2019
- Wolverhampton SEND Partnership Board Self-evaluation.

3.0 Overview of Wolverhampton's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023

3.1 Governance of this strategy will be held by SEND Partnership Board and overseen by Children and Families Together Board.

3.2 The strategy reflects the vision that Wolverhampton is an inclusive City where we work with children, young people, and their families with SEND so that they have a good quality 'ordinary life' and achieve their full potential.

3.3 The strategy recognises that all children with SEND are individuals with aspirations to lead their own lives. While life for a child or young person with SEND and their family is anything but ordinary, the ordinary life principles are what extraordinary achievements are built on.

3.4 This strategy signifies a commitment by all SEND Partnership Board partners to work together to achieve the vision and ensure that:

- Children, young people and their families are empowered and well supported
- Wolverhampton is an inclusive city
- Young people are well prepared for adulthood.

3.5 Some of the key activities that will support the delivery of the SEND strategy include:

- Implementing a new system of allocating high needs funding to education settings that is based on children and young people's individual needs and helps to support inclusion.
- Planning to ensure the city's education estate meets the needs of all our children and young people.
- Improving processes for assessing and planning support for children with SEND that embed person-centred and joint working for SEND support and for those with an EHC plan.

- Setting up mental health support teams in schools and implementing the CAMHS Transformation Plan and the Emotional Wellbeing Review to improve access to mental health support services.
- Improving take up of two-year health checks.
- Supporting more children and young people with SEND to be able to travel independently.
- Improving the provision of short breaks.
- Developing the offer from Strengthening Families hubs to provide better early help to families of children and young people with SEND.
- Through the Transforming Care Programme improve support for children and young people with autism or a learning disability.
- Implement the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group Community SEND Health Strategy 2019
- Roll out the use of health passports.
- Implement the Culture of Belonging programme to improve capacity in mainstream schools to become more inclusive and ensure the right support is available to pupils at risk of becoming disengaged from education.
- Review and improve the city's leisure offer for children and young people with SEND.
- Work with education providers and the Employment and Skills Board to improve availability of and access to inclusive employment pathways and opportunities.

4.0 Model of Delivery

- 4.1 A multi-agency action plan will be developed to underpin the strategy.
- 4.2 These action plans and performance indicators against which we can measure our success will be published, every half-term, on the Wolverhampton SEND Local Offer website.
- 4.3 The SEND strategy action plan will undergo scrutiny by Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel on 13 January 2020.

5.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 5.1 The approval for publication of the Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023 could have not been provided or the strategy could have been published unamended following consultation.
- 5.2 However, given the overall positive response and high level of support for the vision, priorities and aims of the strategy A decision was made to approve the draft Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023 following amendments resulting from consultation.
- 5.3 This decision supported the provision of a clear and transparent strategy to guide the future development of SEND Provision in the City and took into consideration the views of stakeholders that have participated the consultation.

6.0 Reasons for decision

- 6.1 The Council has statutory duties under the Children & Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014 to provide for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Implementation of the strategy contributes to fulfilling the Council's duties in this regard, by setting out the vision and key priorities that partners in the City, including parents and carers, children and young people, education, health, social care and voluntary sector agencies want to focus on to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND over the next three years.
- 6.2 Endorsement and support for the implementation of the Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023 would ensure council wide buy-in to a clear and transparent strategy to guide the future development of SEND Provision in the City.

7.0 Financial implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023. The financial implications of any recommendations from the SEND Strategy will be detailed in future reports, alongside approval to implement the change.
- 7.2 The 2020/2021 High Needs Bock Budget Designated School Grant Allocation was £36,186,396 although the £292,959 2019/2020 overspend has been offset against this, leaving £35,893,437 available.
- 7.3 £500,000, of the available budget, has been identified for system support and transformation, from the 2020/2021 High Needs Budget, and approved by Schools Forum in February 2020. The purpose of this fund was to support:
- improvements in central systems, e.g. Capita and the Education, Health and Care (EHC) Hub
 - improvements financial processing and efficient funding of high needs places.
 - modelling and implementation of the High Needs Funding Review
 - implementation of the Alternative Provision review and education elements of the SEND Strategy.
- 7.4 £456,547, of the available budget, has been identified for transitional protection.
[TS/22102020/E]

8.0 Legal implications

- 8.1 Implementation of the SEND Strategy will enable the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duties for Children and Young People with SEND in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014 and secure a continuum of provision and support with partners for pupils aged 0-25 with SEND.
[SB/23102020/W]

9.0 Equalities implications

- 9.1 This report has equal opportunities implications as the contents of the SEND Strategy and consultation principles have direct relevance to the provision of SEND services.
- 9.2 An initial Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken and the overall conclusion of these assessments is that the implications are either positive or neutral.
- 9.3 The equalities implications will be kept under review and updated for any implications of the implementation of the SEND Strategy.

10.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 10.1 There are no climate change and environmental implications arising from this report. Human resources implications.

11.0 Human resources implications

- 11.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from this report. However, the implementation of the strategy may impact ways of working.

12.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 12.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report. The Corporate Landlord implications of any recommendations from the SEND Strategy will be detailed in future reports, alongside approval to implement the change.

13.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 13.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications from this consultation. However, the delivery of the SEND Strategy will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of children and young people with SEND and their families.

14.0 Covid Implications

- 14.1 Due to restrictions in place due to Covid-19, the consultation and launch of the SEND Strategy was limited to electronic communication methods.

15.0 Schedule of background papers

- 15.1 Children and Families Together Board - 5 March 2020
2020 - 2025 Local Area Special Educational Needs (SEND) Strategy
- 15.2 Children and Families Together Board - 24 September 2020
Draft Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2020 – 2023

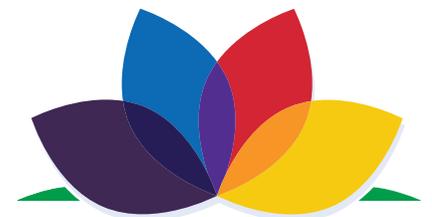
16.0 Appendices

- 16.1 Appendix 1 - Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-2023

- 16.2 Appendix 2 – Easy read version of the Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-23
- 16.3 Appendix 3 – Summary of the responses to the SEND Strategy Consultation.



Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020



Wolverhampton
SEND Partnership Board

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Foreword from the Joint Chairs of SEND Partnership Board

Welcome to Wolverhampton's strategy for children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

We are determined that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Wolverhampton live in an inclusive city where we work together to support them and their families to lead a good quality 'ordinary life' and achieve their full potential. We believe that by working together with families and communities we will achieve this.

This strategy sets out the vision and priorities of the SEND Partnership Board's offer to children, young people and their families for the next 3 years. It also recognises and builds on our strengths and what works well for families.

The SEND Partnership Board is where senior representatives of key city partner organisations meet to provide strategic direction to improve the lives of children and young people with Special Educational Needs / Disabilities and champion their wish to live an 'ordinary life'.

We commit to ensuring that this strategy is owned at the highest level of every city partner organisation and stakeholder group within the Wolverhampton area, providing a strong basis for us to make the positive changes and improvements that we are all seeking.

The policy has been co-produced with all stakeholders, and sets out the duties of SEND Partnership Board. It will be delivered through an action plan that will be overseen by the Children and Families Together Board. We will review the strategy and action plan on an annual basis to ensure that we remain focused on the right things and improve outcomes for children and young people in Wolverhampton.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of this strategy.



Emma Bennett
Director of Children's Services
City of Wolverhampton Council



Sally Roberts
Chief Nurse
Black Country and
West Birmingham CCGs

Introduction

All children and young people with a special educational need or a disability should have a good life. The Children and Families Act 2014 brought in fundamental changes in relation to SEND. In particular it aimed to:

- Get education, health and social care services working together
- Ensure accurate and useful information is available to children or young people with SEND and their families
- Give children and young people and their parents more of a say about the help they get; and
- Give children or young people one plan for meeting their education, health and care needs that focuses on and gives time for getting ready for adulthood.

Progress 2015-20

In 2015, we developed a five year SEND Strategy in response to the SEND reforms. Since then, Wolverhampton has made significant progress in realising the ambitions set out in our previous strategy and the aims of the Act. In particular:

- We have developed a strong and effective SEND partnership, with clear governance arrangements.
- We have worked hard to embed co-production as central to the way that we do things, leading to the launch of our Co-Production Charter.

- We worked together well to ensure the transfer of Statements to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans was achieved on time through following a genuine transfer review process, ensuring EHC plans are focused on achieving meaningful outcomes.
- There are examples, particularly in the early years, of very effective, integrated, "Team around the Child" working that is highly valued by families.
- We have developed and continued to review and improve our Local Offer so that information is available in one place.
- The proportion of young people with SEND in education and training has been improving. There is a higher proportion of adults with a learning disability in paid employment than in the West Midlands, or England as a whole.

About this strategy

Wolverhampton's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020 (the SEND Strategy) sets out the vision and key priorities that partners in the city, including parents and carers, children and young people, education, health, social care and voluntary sector agencies want to focus on to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND over the next three years. It has been developed by the SEND Partnership Board and demonstrates our commitment to making sure children and young people with SEND and their families have

an equal opportunity to achieve a good quality ordinary life. It supports our ten year Children, Young People and Families Plan which aims to improve the resilience, health and emotional wellbeing of children, young people and families in Wolverhampton.

The strategy has been developed in co-production with children and young people, their families and a range of professionals. It also draws upon data from:

- What families and young people said at the Spotlight on SEND event 2019
- What families said in the Voice 4 Parents Annual parent Survey 2019
- What families, young people and professionals said in the Citizen Lab events in 2019
- What children and young people said at the Real Talk event 2018.

In order to understand what we need to do and what our priorities for the strategy should be, we have drawn on a number of sources of information. These include:

- Wolverhampton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Children and Young People with SEND 2019
- The Children, Young People and Families Plan for Wolverhampton 2015-2025

- City of Wolverhampton Council Plan 2019-24
- Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group Community SEND Health Strategy 2019
- Wolverhampton Challenge Board's Ordinary Lives White paper 2017
- Recommendations from the Voice 4 Parents Annual Survey
- Recommendations from the Changing Our Lives Quality of Life Review 2020
- Recommendations from the Children's to Adults Services Case File Audit 2019
- Recommendations from JSNA 2019
- Recommendations from Short Breaks Review 2019
- Recommendations from Alternative Provision Review 2019
- Wolverhampton SEND Partnership Board Self-evaluation.

Our Challenges

We have seen a lot of progress over recent years, and there is much to celebrate in relation to SEND in Wolverhampton. Nevertheless, by listening to children, young people and their families, and by looking at information about how services are working in Wolverhampton, we know that there are important challenges that we need to address.

Families have told us that:

- Sometimes they have to wait too long to receive support and sometimes services don't work together well enough, so they have to tell their story again and again.
- The Local Offer is not widely enough known about or promoted by all services.
- There is still work to do in embedding person-centred planning and co-production so that children and families feel in control. Some young people do not feel they "own" their EHC plan.
- The support for children, especially those receiving SEN support in school is not always planned or coordinated in a consistent way.
- They worry about children and young people moving onto the next phase of their journey, and sometimes there is not good enough information-sharing, joint working or planning to prepare for this.
- They feel more support should be available to support mental health, including support that is appropriate for children and young people with a disability.
- They do not feel well enough supported in their roles as parents and carers.
- There is not enough awareness of hidden disabilities in some services, organisations and communities.

- Sometimes they have felt pressured to move their child into specialist education provision because it is "easier" or because staff have not had the right training.

Our data tell us that:

- We do not identify some types of need as early or as well as other areas.
- There is increasing demand for services, such as diagnostic assessments and EHC needs assessments, and sometimes these are not delivered quickly enough.
- Too many children, including those with SEND, are excluded from school or do not access their full educational entitlement.
- The proportion of young people with SEND aged 16-17 in education or training remains below national and regional levels.
- The proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in settled accommodation is significantly lower than in comparable areas.



We recognise that all children with SEND are individuals with aspirations to lead their own lives. While life for a child or young person with SEND and their family is anything but ordinary, the ordinary life principles are what extraordinary achievements are built on.

Wolverhampton's Challenge Board defines an 'ordinary life' as being valued as people first, as loving family members, as rebellious teenagers, as paid employees, as community leaders, as home owners and tenants, as neighbours, as friends and partners. An ordinary life means that young people with the label of 'SEND' are seen in society, are valued, and have active lives. They do not live in service land, hidden away from communities with other disabled people. They are not kept away from any risk, nor over-protected. An ordinary life has challenges and responsibilities. It's about taking risks, making mistakes, changing our minds and sometimes getting into trouble. An ordinary life is one where people are in control of their own lives and make their own choices about where to live, who to live with, who to have relationships with, where to work, how to spend their own money and what to do to both learn and have fun. Being in control of these things improves the quality of life for anyone.

Information about use of terms

What does SEN mean?

The term special educational needs is described in law in the Children and Families Act 2014 as:

- A child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.
- A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:
 - (a) has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
 - (b) has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.
- A child under compulsory school age has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she is likely to be within subsection (2) when of compulsory school age (or would be likely, if no special educational provision were made).
- A child or young person does not have a learning difficulty or disability solely because the language (or form of language) in which he or she is or will be taught is different from a language (or form of language) which is/or has been spoken at home.

What does disability mean?

Many children and young people who have SEN may also have a disability. A disability is described in law (the Equality Act 2010) as:

‘a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term (a year or more) and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.’

This includes, for example, sensory impairments such as those that affect sight and hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes or epilepsy. Many disabilities are hidden.



SEND in Wolverhampton

The Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2019 and complementary SEND Sufficiency Analysis were published in 2019. Together they provide a robust and timely summary of information regarding Wolverhampton's Children and Young People with SEND which have informed this strategy. The key findings are presented below:

Needs Analysis:

- In January 2019, there were 46,039 children and young people (across nursery to year 14) attending state schools in Wolverhampton. Of these, 7,834 were identified as having SEND; this equates to 17.02% of the school population or just over one in every six pupils.
- The number of pupils with SEND in the city has increased over the last three years (from 6,935 in January 2016 to 7,834 in January 2019).
- 1,365 pupils (2.96%) on roll in January 2019 were identified as having an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan and 6,469 pupils (14.05%) were identified as accessing SEN Support.
- The number of pupils with SEND varies in each phase and year group; 48.50% of pupils with an EHC Plan attending state schools in the city were in primary phase, 41.76% in secondary (Years 7-11), 8.13% in post 16 and just 1.61% in nursery.
- The total number of pupils with EHC Plans/Statements in Wolverhampton schools has fallen from its peak in 2014. However, since 2016 there has been a year on year increase in the total number of pupils with EHC Plan/Statement of SEN.
- In recent years, the number of children and young people with EHC Plan/Statement of SEN on roll in the nursery and post 16 phases have remained relatively static whilst those in the primary phase have increased markedly and those in the secondary phase have reduced significantly, but recently begun to recover.
- The total number of pupils accessing SEN Support fell between 2013 and 2016 but has recently increased to a peak in 2019.
- The number of pupils receiving SEN Support in the nursery phase peaked in 2018 but saw a sharp decline in 2019. The number of pupils receiving SEN Support in the primary phase reduced significantly between 2014 and 2015 but has since stabilised. The proportion of students receiving SEN support in the secondary phase has fluctuated, however since 2016 there has been a marked increase in cohort size. The number of pupils receiving SEN Support in the post 16 phase has recently increased to a peak in 2019.

- In January 2019, the most common identified primary needs of pupils with EHC plans were (in order of prevalence): autism spectrum disorder (ASD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), moderate learning difficulties (MLD), and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties.
- In January 2019, the most prevalent identified primary needs of pupils accessing SEN Support were: MLD, SEMH, specific learning difficulties (SpLD), and speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).
- The identified prevalence of the primary needs of ASD, SEMH, SLCN and “other SEN” has increased in recent years.
- The identified prevalence of the primary needs of MLD, SLD, SpLD and profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) has decreased in recent years.
- In January 2019, 87.58% of pupils (6,861 pupils) with SEND in Wolverhampton schools were educated within mainstream provision, whilst 12.42% (973 pupils) were being educated within either Special Schools or Pupil Referral Units.
- In January 2019, 35.53% of pupils (485 pupils) with EHCPs in Wolverhampton schools were educated within mainstream provision, whilst 64.47% (880 pupils) were being educated within either Special Schools or Pupil Referral Units.
- In January 2019, the vast majority (98.56%) of pupils (6,376 pupils) accessing SEN Support in Wolverhampton schools were educated within mainstream provision, whilst 1.44% (93 pupils) were being educated within either Special Schools or Pupil Referral Units.
- In April 2019, 15% of children and young people with Wolverhampton EHCPs attended out of city or independent schools.

Local Education Provision

- Wolverhampton has eight special schools, 11 resource bases, four pupil referral units and 98 mainstream schools all of whom provide support to pupils with SEND.

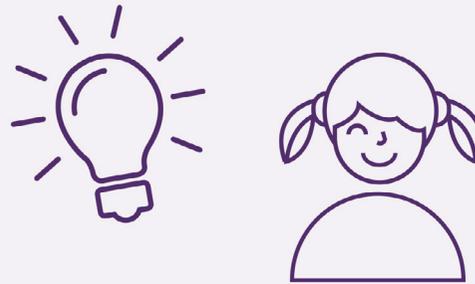


Future Needs

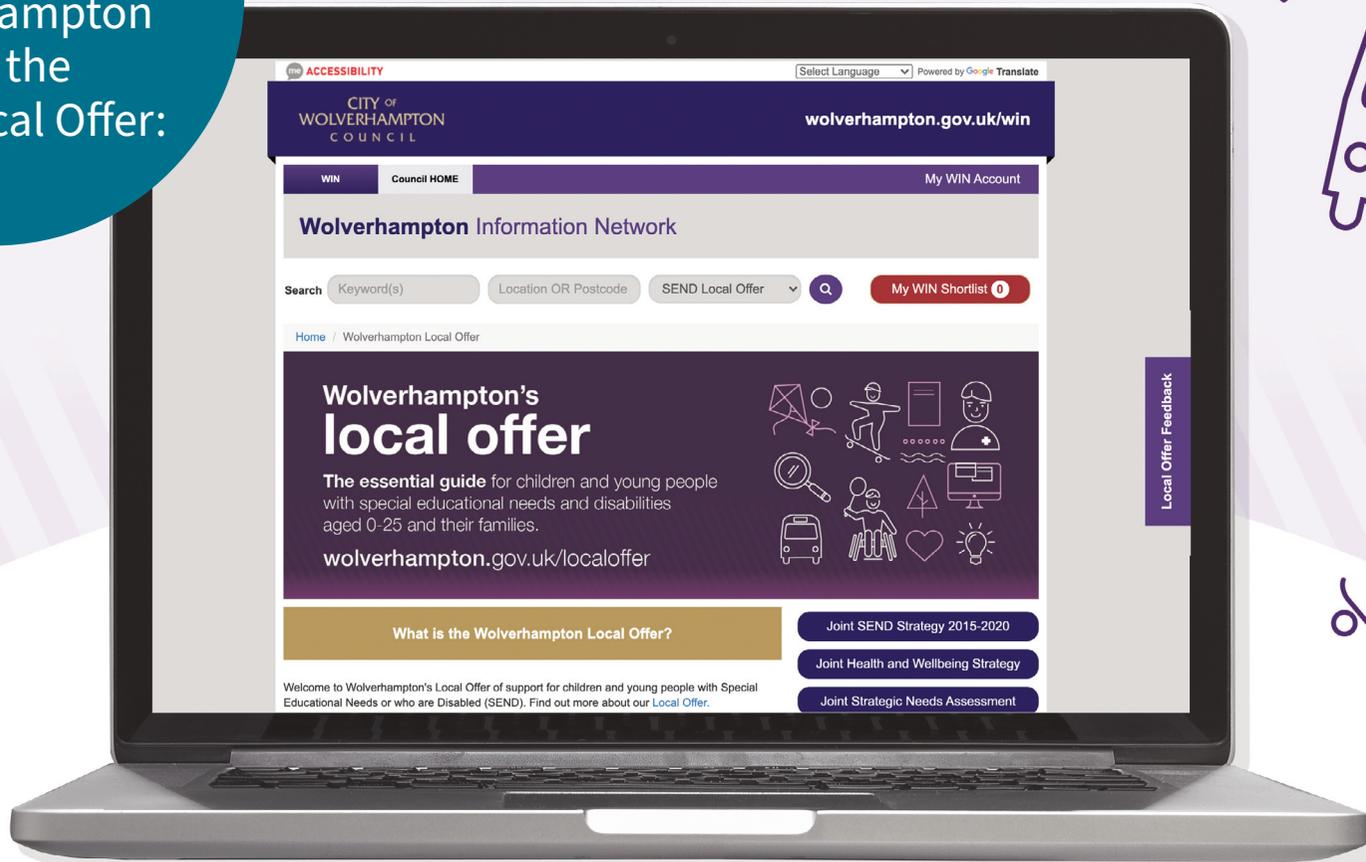
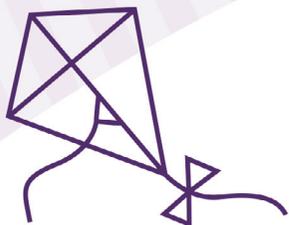
- The total number of pupils with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast to increase by 11.22% between 2018/19 and 2026/27
- The total number of nursery age pupils with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast to remain relatively static
- The total number of primary phase pupils with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast to peak in 2021/22 and then cohorts are expected to decrease
- The total number of secondary phase pupils with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast to increase by 23.78% between 2018/19 and 2026/27
- The total number of post 16 phase students with SEND within Wolverhampton's schools are forecast to increase by 39.12% between 2018/19 and 2026/27.

A video with key messages from the SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/OHIQ4udwwcY>

For more information about SEND in Wolverhampton visit the SEND Local Offer:



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www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/localoffer

Our Partnership

The **SEND Partnership Board** brings together key stakeholders including: Voice 4 Parents, head teachers, leaders and service managers in education, health, social care, public health, commissioning, and the voluntary sector. The Board is responsible for providing strategic direction and supporting joint commissioning to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND. It works in partnership with the City of Wolverhampton Council, Wolverhampton CCG and wider co-production partners, to provide strategic oversight to:

- Identify all children and young people with SEND
- Assess and meet their needs
- Improve their outcomes.

The Board believes that children, young people and their families are best placed to shape the services and support they receive. It is committed to working with all stakeholders to co-design and co-produce solutions to create an inclusive future that changes lives: where disability does not define identity, expectations and aspirations are high, and ultimately where – with the right support – a good, ordinary life becomes a reality for all.

Wolverhampton Challenge Board is a strategic body for young people in the city to influence decision making at a strategic level. It has been developed and facilitated by Changing Our Lives. It aims to make sure that young people with the label of special educational needs and disabilities have good lives. The Board works with SEND Partnership Board members and a network of young people (including schools and colleges) around the city. The Board is not about consultation; it is about achieving outcomes.

In 2017 the Challenge Board published its first White Paper which was developed around the idea of an ‘ordinary life’. This emerged out of a desire from the Board to make a good, ordinary life a reality for all young people in the city.



Voice4Parents is Wolverhampton's parent carer forum, whose steering group representatives have children aged between 0 and 25 years with a wide range of special education needs and/or disabilities. It is the aim of the forum to ensure the voice of parents and carers in Wolverhampton remains at the heart of service planning and delivery and meets the needs of the community.

The forum exists to not only represent the voices of parents and carers living in Wolverhampton, but to work in partnership with service leads and commissioners to help shape the services and support accessed by the children and young people with SEND and their families who we represent.

Wider group membership of Voice4Parents is open to any parent or carer of a child/young person aged 0 to 25 years with SEND living in Wolverhampton. This enables Voice4Parents to gather and provide feedback on parent and carer experiences of a wide range of services in the city. Feedback is gathered through listening to parents and carers, attending events, social media, website, surveys, etc.

Our Vision and Priorities

Wolverhampton is an inclusive City where we work with children, young people, and their families with SEND so that they have a good quality ‘ordinary life’ and achieve their full potential.

This strategy signifies a commitment by all SEND Partnership Board partners to work together to achieve our vision and ensure that:

- Children, young people and their families are empowered and well supported
- Wolverhampton is an inclusive city
- Young people are well prepared for adulthood.

We believe that everything we do should be underpinned by:

- **Co-production** – we believe that young people and their families are best placed to shape the services and support that they receive
- **A highly skilled multi-agency workforce working together**
- **Aiming for a good quality ordinary life for all**
- **High expectations and aspirations** – creating and nurturing a culture which raises everyone’s expectations for children and young people with SEND to ensure ‘ordinary life’ outcomes
- **Tell it once** – embedding a culture of ‘tell it once’ so that children, young people and families don’t have to continually tell their story over and over again to different people and services
- **Joint commissioning** – working together to know ourselves, plan and deliver services that achieve real outcomes.

The strategy upholds the values behind Part 3 of the Children and Families Act, the SEND Code of Practice and the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which state a commitment to inclusive education of disabled children and young people, and the progressive removal of barriers to learning and participation in mainstream education.



Co-production Charter for Children, Young People and Families

We will place children and families at the heart of everything we do and all work to deliver these priorities will be carried out in line with the principles and promises set out within the co-production charter for children, young people and families:

Co-Production Charter for Children, Young People and Families

This charter is a set of principles and promises of working together with young people and families to ensure they remain at the heart of decision making.

We believe that young people and their families are best placed to shape the services and support they receive.



City of Wolverhampton
Children & Families
Together Board



We commit to delivering this promise using the following principles:



Trust

There will be no conversations about you without you
We decide priorities together
Together we will find the best solution



Shared understanding

We all agree about what we want to achieve
We agree on what 'good' looks like
We will be mindful of everyone's commitments



Equal partnership

Everyone can take part. Whatever their needs or abilities
We can learn a lot from each other
We are all in this together!



Creative thinking

We will plan creatively and do things differently
We will work in a way that's best for you
Finding the right solution may take longer but that's ok



Communication

Everyone will be kept informed and updated
We will be clear about what we can and can't do
Information will be accessible for everyone

WCC/20/03 10/2020



Wolverhampton will be an inclusive city

This means that:

- Partners and businesses across the city promote understanding, celebrate diversity and remove barriers for children, young people with SEND and their families.
- Schools and educational settings are inclusive and provide a culture of belonging for all children and young people.
- Public services and spaces are accessible for all children and young people with SEND.
- Children and young people with SEND have a choice of accessible leisure activities locally.
- Families have a choice of local education and training provision, including mainstream provision, that is able to meet all of the child or young person's needs.
- Partners and businesses across the city provide meaningful employment opportunities that are available to young people with SEND.

Children, young people and their families are empowered and well supported

This means that:

- When children and young people have additional needs, we identify these quickly and put the right support in place.
- Children and young people with SEND have a clear plan of support to achieve agreed outcomes, developed through genuine co-production.
- When life changes for children and young people, we will plan, support and share information together throughout those transitions.
- When a child or young person has a need for support to lead a more independent life, families will have information about personal budgets.
- When a child or young person with a disability and their family need a short break from each other there will be high quality, local options available.
- When a child or young person needs it, mental health support will be available that is timely, effective, and accessible.
- When parents, carers or siblings of a child or young person with SEND need information, support or advice this will be available.

Young people are well prepared for adulthood

This means that:

- Children and young people with SEND and their families have opportunities and support to talk about and make plans for independent adult life, from a young age.
- When young people with SEND leave school/ college they can access meaningful employment or training.
- Young people with SEND and their families have access to information and advice about what support is required as they move into adult life.
- Children and young people have opportunities to spend time with friend outside of school and college, and to be involved in their community.
- Young people with SEND have support and housing options available to enable them to live independently when ready.
- Children and young people with SEND have information and support to maintain a healthy life and can access health support when needed.



How are we going to achieve this?

The SEND Partnership Board will oversee development and delivery of a comprehensive action plan that will focus on our three priorities and set out how we will achieve the outcomes that we have committed to. This Strategy sets the direction for SEND in Wolverhampton over the next five years, and over this time we will continually develop and refine our plans to achieve agreed outcomes.

Some of the key activities that will support the delivery of the SEND strategy include:

- Implementing a new system of allocating high needs funding to education settings that is based on children and young people's individual needs and helps to support inclusion.
- Planning to ensure the city's education estate meets the needs of all our children and young people.
- Improving processes for assessing and planning support for children with SEND that embed person-centred and joint working for SEND support and for those with an EHC plan.
- Setting up mental health support teams in schools and implementing the CAMHS Transformation Plan and the Emotional Wellbeing Review to improve access to mental health support services.
- Improving take up of two-year health checks.
- Supporting more children and young people with SEND to be able to travel independently.
- Improving the provision of short breaks.
- Developing the offer from Strengthening Families hubs to provide better early help to families of children and young people with SEND.
- Through the Transforming Care Programme improve support for children and young people with autism or a learning disability.
- Implement the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group Community SEND Health Strategy 2019
- Roll out the use of health passports.
- Implement the Culture of Belonging programme to improve capacity in mainstream schools to become more inclusive and ensure the right support is available to pupils at risk of becoming disengaged from education.
- Review and improve the city's leisure offer for children and young people with SEND.
- Work with education providers and the Employment and Skills Board to improve availability of and access to inclusive employment pathways and opportunities.

How will we know if we are making a difference?

The SEND Partnership Board will monitor delivery of the SEND strategy to ensure that the actions taken make the expected difference, and report to the Children and Families Together Board regularly to be held accountable for progress.

We will publish action plans and performance indicators against which we can measure our success. These will be updated every half-term and published on the Wolverhampton Local Offer. This will enable us to hold each other to account for our joint work and share progress made in delivering made in delivering our SEND Strategy. This would include how the strategy relates to other relevant strategies such as:

- Our Council Plan
- School Accessibility Strategy
- Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group Community SEND Health Strategy 2019
- CAMHS Transformation Plan
- #YES (Youth Engagement Strategy).

We will create a range of regular opportunities to listen to children and young people with SEND and their families so that they can tell us what is working and what still needs to be improved. This will also be opportunities for new people to get involved in co-producing any improvements identified.

To become involved in making a difference, visit:

www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/localoffer-co-production

You can get this information in large print, braille,
audio or in another language by calling 01902 551155

wolverhampton.gov.uk 01902 551155

  WolverhamptonToday  Wolverhampton_Today  @WolvesCouncil

City of Wolverhampton Council, Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH



Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

What we want to do 2020 to 2023 Summary in Easy Read



Wolverhampton
SEND Partnership Board

Introduction



This is an easier to read summary of the Wolverhampton Strategy for services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).



SEND stands for **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**.



Having SEND means a child or young person may need some extra help in school or college.



This strategy tells you how we plan to make life better for children and young people with SEND and their families.



A **strategy** is a plan over a long period of time



This strategy has been made by asking children, young people, parents, carers and people who work with them, what is important.



When we wrote this strategy, it had to make sure it kept to the law about special educational needs.



The Children and Families Act 2014 says that support services should focus on what is important to children with SEND and their families.



The SEND code of practice sets out what support children and young people with SEND should have from their school or college.



The Care Act 2014 says that services that support parents, carers, children and young people should help them to be as independent as they can be.

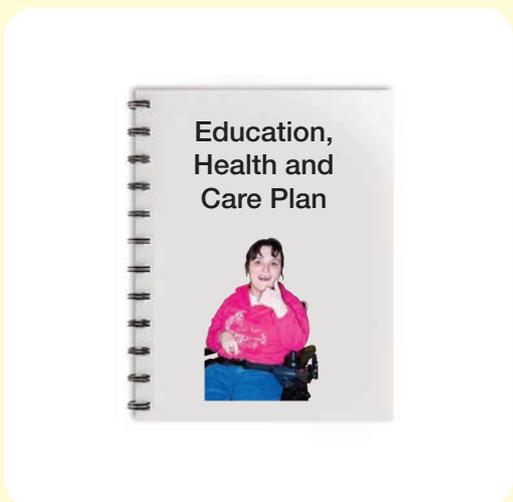


The Equalities Act 2010 says that children and young people with SEND should get fair treatment in all areas of their life.

SEND in Wolverhampton



In January 2019 7,834 children and young people were receiving some support with special educational needs and disabilities.

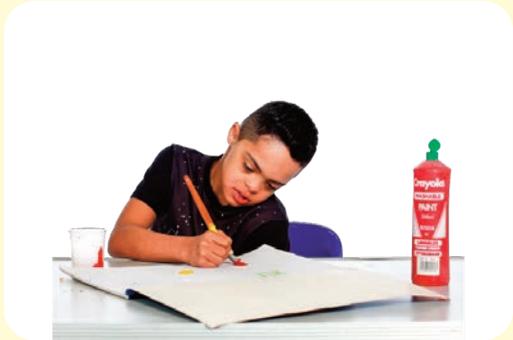


1365 of these had an Education, Health and Care Plan EHCP.

EHCP stands for Education, Health and Care Plan. It is a plan which explains the extra help and support someone needs to go to school.



In January 2019 7,834 children and young people were receiving some support with special educational needs and disabilities.



A **mainstream school** is a school for all children. It is not a special school.

A **special school** is especially for children with physical, learning, social emotional and mental health disabilities



A **pupil referral unit (PRU)**

is an alternative education provision for children who aren't able to attend school. Children only attend for a short time. A PRU can help identify a child's needs and the support they need to return to mainstream school.



The number of children and young people with SEND has risen, from 6,935 to 7,834 over the last 3 years (January 2016 to January 2019).

Our Partnership



The City of Wolverhampton Council and Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) work with other people and groups to provide services to children and young people with SEND from birth to 25.



Wolverhampton
SEND Partnership Board

Together we form the
SEND Partnership Board.



A Partnership is where
different people and groups
work together.

Our Vision and Priorities

To achieve our vision, we will:



work together with children, young people, parents and carers.



have staff that are well trained and supported in their jobs.



to support children and young people with SEND to make progress and achieve more at school and college.



share information between people who work with you so you do not have to keep repeating information



spend the money we have for Special Educational Needs in the best way to help you.



There are 3 **priorities** we want to work on. We will tell you more about the priorities in this document.

Priority 1: Children, young people and their families have the right information and have the help they need to make their own choices

This means that we will:



start working with children and young people with SEND sooner and make sure they have the help they need.



write plans that will help children and young people with SEND to join in with making important decisions about what they want to achieve



we will help children and young people plan for changes in their life such as moving schools, into college or to adult services.



giving children and young people with SEND and their families some control over how the money is spent on their needs



When a child or young person with a disability and their family need a short break from each other there will be wide variety of good options available to them, close to their home.



Children and young people will be able to get good mental health support when they need it



give children and young people with SEND and their families the information, support and advice that they need to make good choices.

Priority 2: Wolverhampton is a city where you feel included

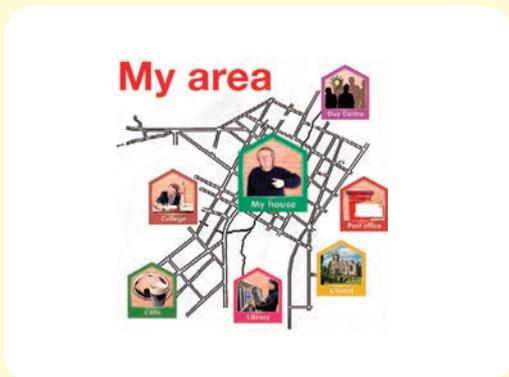
This means:



communities, schools and employers will include and understand the needs of children and young people with SEND.



schools, colleges and others, will welcome and include children and young people from diverse backgrounds and with different needs.



children and young people with SEND will be able to use local public services and spaces easily, such as parks, libraries, banks/post offices, doctors surgeries etc.



there are leisure activities for children and young people with SEND close to home.



make sure we have enough mainstream school, special school and college places for people who need them. These places will meet the child or young person's needs and be close to home.



we will work more closely with people who might give you a job.

Priority 3: Young people feel well prepared for adulthood

This means that:



young people will get help to be as independent as they can be.



young people will be able to work or train when they finish school.



children and young people will be safe, be able spend time with friends outside of school or college. Children and young people will be able to make a difference to the communities they live in.



Young people will have choices about where to live and have help to live independently, when they are ready.



children and young people will be supported to have a healthy life.

How will we know if we are making a difference?



The SEND Partnership Board will keep checking to make sure we are doing a good job.



We will tell you how well we are doing on the Local Offer website every 6 weeks.



The Local Offer tells you what support is available for children and young people with SEND in Wolverhampton:

www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/localoffer



Wolverhampton Strategy for
Children and Young People with
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
2020



The full version of this document is called 'Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020' and can be found at

**[www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/
sendstrategy](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sendstrategy)**

You can get this information in large print, braille,
audio or in another language by calling 01902 551155

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City of Wolverhampton Council, Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Responses from the Consultation on the Draft Wolverhampton's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020

Consultation Process

Consultation commenced on 14 July 2020 and ran until 21 September 2020.

At the beginning of the consultation period, consultation documentation was shared with stakeholders including:

- Children and young people with SEND via schools,
- Parents and carers of children and young people with SEND via schools
- Local schools' headteachers, SENCOs and chairs of governors,
- Wolverhampton Ward Councillors,
- Members of Wolverhampton's Children and Families Together Board,
- Members of Wolverhampton's SEND and Commissioning Partnership Board,
- Members of Wolverhampton's Health Steering Group,
- Educational trade union representatives,
- Local diocesan authorities,
- The West Midlands Regional Schools Commissioner,
- Members of Parliament for Wolverhampton,
- Members of ConnectEd Partnership Board,
- Voice for Parents,
- Give Us a Break,
- Let Us Play,
- Include Me Too,
- The Way Youth Zone, and
- Barnardo's.

The consultation was hosted on the City of Wolverhampton Council's website and was further promoted via:

- Wolverhampton Today (the City of Wolverhampton Council's Facebook page),
- The City of Wolverhampton Councils Twitter and Instagram.

- The City of Wolverhampton Council’s Intranet - City People,
- Wolverhampton’s Information, Advice and Support Service’s Facebook and Twitter page,
- Voice 4 Parents’ Facebook page,
- The City of Wolverhampton Council’s weekly Headteachers’ Bulletin,
- Wolverhampton’s SEND Local Offer Website.

A more accessible, easy read version of the SEND Strategy and consultation survey was available to support widespread engagement and published on the Local Offer. Children and young people were encouraged to participate through the completion of an interactive online survey, schools were asked to support this activity through Headteachers Bulletin and direct emails to all Wolverhampton SENCO and special school headteachers.

Three focus groups were hosted online, facilitated by Voice 4 Parents, for parents, carers and families on 14 September 2020.

Feedback was also sought from the Council’s Leadership Forum, Corporate Parenting Board, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) and The Health Steering Group during the consultation period.

Outcomes of Consultation

The City of Wolverhampton Council received 96 responses, to the consultation on the draft SEND Strategy, from a range of stakeholders including, Children and young people, parents/carers, members of school staff, voluntary sector council organisations, Wolverhampton Councillors and SEND professionals.

A breakdown of participants is available in the table below:

	Children and Young People	Parents and Families	CWC employee	NHS Employee	School employee	W-ton Councillor or MP	Other	Total
Total	7	29	41	4	11	1	3	96
Percentage	7%	30%	43%	4%	12%	1%	3%	

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the vision for children and young people with SEND?

Wolverhampton is an inclusive city where we work together to support children, young people, and their families with SEND to lead a good quality 'ordinary life' and achieve their full potential.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
Total	40	24	11	7	2	84
Percentage	48%	29%	13%	8%	2%	

Over 75% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with vision for Children and young people with SEND.

'I think the statement as an aim is good and is what we should be achieving.'
[Parent]

'I really worry about the future, so the vision is promising. The future is frightening.' [Parent]

'I strongly agree with the vision, it is important that we value every child (adult) and support their needs as an inclusive city.' [Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator]

Feedback suggestions to strengthen, clarify and amend the SEND Strategy

During focus groups with parents there were concerns that the phrase 'ordinary life' could be misinterpreted without context and this made the vision lack aspiration. The ordinary life definition, by Wolverhampton Challenge Board, was shared with parents and they agreed with the principles of an ordinary life and parents agreed that the definition was positive. It was proposed that a link was provided to the ordinary life definition.

'The statement needs to be more powerful, it should be empowering.' [Parent]

'I am not sure what is meant by "ordinary life". Ordinary life according to who?'
[Parent]

'The vision is not aspirational enough - 'ordinary life' although the Challenge Board definition is good parents will look at this differently without context.'

[Parent]

'Ordinary life is positive about life and the future when you understand the definition.' [Parent]

'Ordinary life' probably needs some definition but I am sure that we intend that all children should have every opportunity to be the best they can be notwithstanding a disability. [Wolverhampton Councillor]

Recommendations:

Following feedback from the consultation it is proposed the vision should read:

Wolverhampton is an inclusive city where we work with children, young people, and their families with SEND so that they have a good quality 'ordinary life' and achieve their full potential.

It is also proposed that 'Ordinary life' is hyperlinked within the strategy and that this is linked to 'ordinary life' definition.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the priorities for children and young people with SEND?

1. Children, young people and their families feel empowered and well supported
2. Wolverhampton is an inclusive city
3. Young people feel well prepared for adulthood

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
No. of responses	23	41	8	7	0	79
Percentage	29%	52%	10%	9%	0%	

Over 80% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the priorities for children and young people with SEND set out within the strategy.

'Seems very well meaning but need to ensure that this is what children young people and their families receive' [Parent]

'I agree these need to be priorities but as of yet not fulfilling them.' [Parent]

'I think this is the right way forward so that children and young people and their families are empowered to participate fully in their lives and can support any changes they feel they need.' [NHS Employee]

Feedback suggestions to strengthen, clarify and amend the SEND Strategy.

Feedback from the parents suggested that the priority regarding preparation for adulthood should be extended to families. This was discussed and it was proposed that although parent/careers and families required support ensure their children were prepared for adulthood that this should be an objective of the priority and the priority still stood that young people are prepared for adulthood through this objective.

'Could it be changed to 'CYP and families are supported through all transitions towards adulthood.' [Parent]

Feedback suggested that the stage that preparation begins should be clarified, as this could be misunderstood. It was also proposed that this could be clarified within the objectives.

'Priority 3 needs to be clear that preparation for adulthood starts right from the start of a child's life so that the statement is clear and impactful' [Parent]

Feedback also showed that respondents felt that numbering priorities gave the impression that these were rated in importance. It was proposed that the numbering be removed from the strategy document.

'It would be better if these were not numbered as it looks like some are more important than others.' [Parent]

It was suggested from the feedback that the inclusive city priority should appear first in the strategy document to create a flow from inclusion, to empowerment, to adulthood.

'Why is inclusivity priority 2. Surely you have to start with that.' [Parent]

'May be better to have an inclusive city as priority one and explain the relationship between inclusion and SEND.' [CWC Employee]

Responses suggested that the use of the term feel in the statements was not aspirational and that we should be aiming that people are. It was proposed to amend the word feel to are.

'Not feeling. Do or do not.' [Wolverhampton Headteacher]

Recommendations:

To remove numbering of priorities.

That in the strategy document priorities to be listed in following order for flow:

1. Wolverhampton is an inclusive city
2. Children, young people and their families are empowered and well supported
3. Young people are well prepared for adulthood

Change the word feel in 1 & 3 to are.

Change Point 1 on priority 3 to ‘Children and young people with SEND and their families have opportunities and support to talk about and make plans for independent adult life, from a young age.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed objectives for priority 1 - Children, young people and their families feel empowered and well supported?

- When children and young people have additional needs, we identify these quickly and the right support is available when needed.
- Children and young people with SEND have a clear plan of support to achieve agreed outcomes, developed through genuine co-production.
- When life changes for children and young people, we will plan, support, and share information together throughout those transitions.
- When a child or young person needs support to lead a more independent life, families will have information and options for using a personal budget.
- When a child or young person with a disability and their family need a short break from each other there will be high quality, local options available.
- When a child or young person needs it, mental health support will be available that is timely, effective, and accessible to all.
- When parents, carers or siblings of a child or young person with SEND need additional support or advice this will be available.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
No. of responses	14	23	8	4	3	52
Percentage	27%	44%	15%	8%	6%	

Over 70% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the proposed objectives for priority 1 - Children, young people and their families feel empowered and well supported.

'The statement above is very good, but this does not always come across in practice.' [Parent]

'Again, a good vision but a lot would need to change in attitude and working together.' [Parent]

Feedback suggestions to strengthen, clarify and amend the SEND Strategy

There was strong feedback from parents and carers that it was important that professionals working with families understand the experiences and challenges that they face. It was felt that true co-production could not take place without this understanding. It was agreed that this should be addressed during action planning.

'People need to understand what families are going through. They should be talking with families, looking at case studies. They need to know what families and experiences and the challenges. This could maybe focus on priority areas such as short breaks. They need a sense of awareness and ability to empathise.' [Parent]

'There needs to be more work with families to truly understand co-production, professionals need to look at the struggle's families face when deciding what provision is needed.' [Parent]

Feedback suggested that the objective around personal budgets 'When a child or young person needs support to lead a more independent life, families will have information and options for using a personal budget' could be misleading as it could as it did not look at eligibility. It was proposed this should be amended to 'When a child or young person has a need for support to lead a more independent life, families will have information about personal budgets.'

Parents felt very strongly that a physical place to receive information, advice and support was needed along with key/support workers. It was agreed that this would be addressed during action planning.

'We need access to a SEND specific hub to access information, the strengthening families hubs do not have the specialism.' [Parent]

Parent and families discussed the need for emotional support services for parents and siblings. It was agreed that this would be addressed during action planning.

'Mental health support is needed for families in order for them to be able to support their child. Need to show emotional support and mental health support for families, parents' carer, siblings within the objectives. With what is expected with Covid this really needs to be addressed to ensure families can provide the care and support their children need.' [Parent]

Proposal:

- When children and young people have additional needs, we identify these quickly and put the right support in place.’
- Children and young people with SEND have a clear plan of support to achieve agreed outcomes, developed through genuine co-production.
- When life changes for children and young people, we will plan, support, and share information together throughout those transitions.
- When a child or young person has a need for support to lead a more independent life, families will have information about personal budgets.
- When a child or young person with a disability and their family need a short break from each other there will be high quality, local options available.
- When a child or young person needs it, mental health support will be available that is timely, effective, and accessible.
- When parents, carers or siblings of a child or young person with SEND need additional support or advice this will be available.

That feedback from the consultation is considered during action planning.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed objectives for priority 2 - Wolverhampton will be an inclusive city?

- Partners and businesses across the city promote understanding, celebrate diversity and remove barriers for children, young people with SEND and their families.
- Schools and educational settings are inclusive and provide a culture of belonging for all children and young people.
- Public services and spaces are accessible for all children and young people with SEND.
- Children and young people with SEND can access leisure activities locally.
- Families have a choice of local education provision, including mainstream provision, that is able to meet all their child’s needs.
- Meaningful employment opportunities are available to young people with SEND.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
No. of responses	14	28	9	2	0	53
Percentage	26%	53%	17%	4%	0%	

Almost 80% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the proposed objectives for priority 2 - Wolverhampton will be an inclusive city.

'I agree with all priorities, but it does feel like the strategy is geared towards moderate and severe SEND.' [Parent]

'The statement above is very good, but this is not always come across in practice.' [Parent]

Feedback suggestions to strengthen, clarify and amend the SEND Strategy.

During consultation a discussion took place with consultees regarding educational provision. It was raised that parents must be confident in their child's provision. It was proposed to add training to the 'Families have a choice of local education provision, including mainstream provision, that is able to meet all their child's needs' objective.

'Want a choice when it comes to educational provision but there needs to be consistency in the offer.' [Parent]

'In light of academisation and the need to be placed high on the academic league table, I do wonder dear how parental choice for mainstream education is really taken seriously.' [Wolverhampton Councillor]

Feedback raised the need for children and young people with SEND having different needs which may mean they need inclusive mainstream provision, specialist provision and activities that they are able to attend with their families. It was proposed that the 'Children and young people with SEND can access leisure activities locally' be changed to 'Children and young people with SEND have a choice of accessible leisure activities locally'.

'Activities should be accessible to all.' [Parent]

'Please remember that some SEN or disabled children have disabled parents too, this can increase the barriers to accessing activities etc' [Parent]

'The offer is unfair in comparison to mainstream, this needs to be rebalanced. Activities are always tokenistic. Need to break down barriers.' [Parent]

'We need whole family activities.' [Parent]

'With a focus on an inclusive city, there should be a range of leisure activities for CYP with SEND - as with schools, some will be mainstream, others more specialist. Families consistently say that they want to access activities that can accommodate siblings too.' [WIASS]

Feedback asked the reason for meaningful employment within this objective as well as preparing for adulthood. It was explained that as part of an inclusive city that CWC would offer employment opportunities for young people with SEND and encourage partners and businesses to do the same. It was proposed this objective

was amended to ‘Partners and businesses across the city provide meaningful employment opportunities that are available to young people with SEND.’

Proposal:

- Partners and businesses across the city promote understanding, celebrate diversity and remove barriers for children, young people with SEND and their families.
- Schools and educational settings are inclusive and provide a culture of belonging for all children and young people.
- Public services and spaces are accessible for all children and young people with SEND.
- Children and young people with SEND have a choice of accessible leisure activities locally.
- Families have a choice of local education and training provision, including mainstream provision, that is able to meet all of the child or young person’s needs.
- Partners and businesses across the city provide meaningful employment opportunities that are available to young people with SEND.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed objectives for priority 3 - young people feel well prepared for adulthood?

- Children and young people with SEND have opportunities and support to talk about and make plans for independent adult life.
- When young people with SEND leave school/ college they can access meaningful employment or training.
- Children and young people have opportunities to spend time with friend outside of school and college, and to be involved in their community.
- Young people with SEND have support and housing options available to enable them to live independently when ready.
- Children and young people with SEND have information and support to maintain a healthy life and can access health support when needed.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
Total	13	21	11	7	1	53
Percentage	24%	40%	21%	13%	2%	

64% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the objectives for priority 3 - young people feel well prepared for adulthood.

'All objectives are relevant.' [Parent]

Feedback suggestions to strengthen, clarify and amend the SEND Strategy.

As previously noted, feedback from the parents suggested that the priority regarding preparation for adulthood should be extended to families. This was discussed and it was agreed that although parent/careers and families required support ensure their children were prepared for adulthood and that this should be an objective of the priority but the priority would still stand that young people are prepared for adulthood.

'The priority should be young people AND FAMILIES feel well prepared for all transitions in life from birth to adulthood.' [Parent]

'Families need support to prepare young people for adulthood too. This support can be very difficult to know if my child has been supported or not. It will good if parents can receive the support plan for this area. Children should be able to try anything they are interested and not limited for their potential due to risk. Life is risk and it can be managed.' [Parents]

Consultation responses raised questions about what is meant by 'meaningful employment' and the lack of alternatives for young people for whom employment is unsuitable. To address these points and it was proposed an additional objective 'Young people with SEND and their families have access to information and advice about what support is required as they move into adult life.' is added

'There needs to be meaningful employment opportunities -this should include vocational training, apprenticeships. There should be more investment in areas of interest to the young person and ensuring that their aspirations and expertise are being considered.' [Parent]

'There has to be an acceptance that for some employment will not be an option and there should be something be support with welfare benefits, this seems to have been omitted.' [Parent]

'Living a fulfilled life may not include employment/training. Benefits should be considered at a higher level in delivery of the strategy not just an academic path. DWP Should be partners, they need to be involved and partner with us.' [Parent]

Proposal:

- Children and young people with SEND and their families have opportunities and support to talk about and make plans for independent adult life, from a young age.
- When young people with SEND leave school/ college they can access meaningful employment or training.
- Young people with SEND and their families have access to information and advice about what support is required as they move into adult life.
- Children and young people have opportunities to spend time with friend outside of school and college, and to be involved in their community.
- Young people with SEND have support and housing options available to enable them to live independently when ready.
- Children and young people with SEND have information and support to maintain a healthy life and can access health support when needed.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for publication of the SEND Strategy action plans and performance indicators?

We will publish action plans and performance indicators against which we can measure our success. These will be updated each half-term and be published on the Wolverhampton Local Offer. This will enable us to hold each other to account for our joint work and also on progress made in our SEND Strategy.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
Total	13	26	2	2	1	44
Percentage	29%	59%	5%	5%	2%	

Almost 90% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the proposals for publication of the SEND Strategy action plans and performance indicators.

'This gives people opportunities to have knowledge of the development of the services.' [Parent]

'I like the idea of accountability and visibility.' [Parent]

'This absolutely needs to be done so families can get a better understanding of what actually is going to change for families and improve our lives.' [Parent]

'I would like to see a parental approval level each month. I would like monthly stats published on whether the council are fulfilling their statutory duties with regard to legal timeframes. I think this should be monitored by someone impartial like IASS.' [Parent]

'I think this will help the process and keep us all updated.' [School Employee]

'Publishing the action plans and showing progress against them will make the strategy more owned by the city and all in it.' [NHS Employee]

During consultation some concerns were raised regarding the fitness of purpose of the SEND Local Offer. This was agreed this will be addressed during action planning.

'Local Offer is currently a disgrace. It has out of date information, telephone numbers and not a patch on others local authorities. It needs to be scrapped altogether and replaced with something fit for purpose. It's so hard to navigate I give up with it and it reads like a directory. Therefore, it is the wrong place to display action plans and performance indicators. The role of the Local offer is not for the local authority to use as a notice board for their performance. Most families with SEND do not even know what it is, how to access it and when they do, they see no real gain from using such a diabolical site with nothing to help anyone. Please look at other local authorities who have local offers that actually serve the send community and make a difference to their lives.'

[Parent]

Recommendations:

Following comment on the Local Offer development to this platform will be explored during action planning.

What do you like about the draft SEND Strategy?

'The fact parents are asked.' [Parent]

'I feel this covers everything required and if put in place and worked well and correctly, will give SEND children the support and progression they require as they grow.' [Parent]

'The intention is right and if it can all happen in reality it will be great.' [Parent]

'I think it is an amazing idea overall and if it is thought through and carried out correct and effectively for all their will be a range of benefits for the young people of Wolverhampton who desperately require this support.' [Parent]

'It puts children, young people, and their families first.' [Parent]

'The fact that the spotlight has finally been shone on SEND and the inadequate services, support, and poor outcomes of children and YP with SEND.' [Parent]

'I like how its person centred and sounds supportive for their huge life changes- end of school, work, a house, independence but with a support network. Its multi platformed. Our society should be inclusive for all regardless and this helps do that.' [Parent]

'I like the key priorities and the objectives that underpin them. They are very clear and apt.' [SENCO]

'It is comprehensive without being over bearing. I like how it reads and what its vision is for young people with SEND in the city is clear.' [NHS Employee]

What impact do you think the Strategy will have on you, your child/ren, family, school or wider community?

'If implemented properly it will be very helpful for families and individuals.' [Parent]

'The plan would give encouragement to his future, knowing there's a plan to help him as he gets older if he still can't cope with changes, smells, noise, different people and environments, etc.' [Parent]

'I hope it will make this less of an uphill struggle and more supporting rather than feeling like I have to strongly advocate for my child all the time it will UK's be nice to feel that everything is fighting for the best for each child rather that fighting to put you off and delay things to save time and money.' [Parent]

'Know child is being given the same opportunities as peers.' [Parent]

'I believe it will support my children.' [Parent]

'It would improve our life and outcomes, make family life much happier, give my daughter more opportunities, make more time for the fun things in life instead of always battling.' [Parent]

'It would increase awareness and understanding in wider community of SEND.' [Parent]

'I think it will have a positive impact on families trust in the system and their mental health. The process is stressful, and by making information sharing easier and reducing the amount of times the family have to retell the story it's better.' [Employee of Wolverhampton school]

'Hopefully, it will positively impact the work we already do for our families.' [Employee of Wolverhampton school]

'I think the strategy will make our commissioning intentions clear going forward and enable us to understand the expectations.' [NHS Employee]

'Social inclusion benefits every aspect of community. We have moved thankfully a long way away a place where a person with a disability would be isolated but there is still a good deal of misunderstanding within the general public. Helping integration to happen in a healthy way should not just be left to children with specific needs and their families or carers. The third sector is very good at promoting information and messages - when commissioning services we should consider what role in public messaging the voluntary services can play. We should also expect to pay for this contribution.' [Wolverhampton Councillor]

Result of consultation

In general, the feedback was largely supportive of the vision, priorities and SEND Strategy as a whole. There were some recommendation made to strengthen, clarify and amend the SEND Strategy.

On 24 September 2020 Children and Families Together Board approved the publication on the Wolverhampton Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2020-23 with amendments based on the recommendations from consultation.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 11 November 2020
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Report title	Youth Council Annual Report	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds Children and Young People	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Children's Services	
Accountable employee	Alice Vickers	Co-Production and Youth Engagement Manager
	Tel	3010
	Email	Alice.Vickers@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children's Services Leadership Team	30 July 2020
	Strategic Executive Board Scrutiny Board	14 August 2020

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Endorse the Annual Report produced by the Youth Council 2019/2020.

Recommendation for noting

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The highlights and achievements of the Youth Council throughout 2019 and 2020.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The Youth Council is supported by the Council's Children's Services Participation Officers. The engagement of young people in decision making in the city is at the core of the Youth Engagement Strategy. The work of the Youth Council plays a considerable role in achieving these strategies aims and objectives.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The City of Wolverhampton's Youth Council was formed in 2001 and has developed into a group for young people to represent their views to decision makers in the city. The Youth Council is made up of young people aged 11-18 years, who are nominated by the organisations they represent. The Youth Council links into the scrutiny process of the city of Wolverhampton Council and meets with senior leaders and officers of the Council on a regular basis and is a member of Youth Organisations Wolverhampton (YOW). On a national basis, the Youth Council is a member of the British Youth Council and of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. The Youth Council have written this report to highlight their achievements and upcoming work.

3.0 Evaluation of alternative options.

- 3.1 Endorsing the Youth Council Annual Report 2019-2020 and acknowledging the work completed will offer relevance and support to the Youth Council and their continued work.
- 3.2 Not receiving this endorsement could impact on the ability of the Youth Council to be able to influence and seek the support of the children and young people they represent in Wolverhampton.

4.0 Reasons for decision

- 4.1 To enable the City of Wolverhampton Youth Council to receive recognition for their efforts throughout 2019 to 2020 as outlined in the attached Annual Report produced by the Youth Council.
- 4.2 To endorse their future programme of work.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Any costs associated with the work plan will be contained within existing budgets within the Children and Young People's Service.
[JB/17112020/Q]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.
[SB/13112020/B]

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 The purpose of the Youth Council is to support the sharing of views and experiences of young people across the city. The Youth council represents all the secondary schools across the city, to ensure all areas of the city are represented. 64% of the youth council are from minority ethnic background.

7.2 There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

8.0 Climate change and environmental implications

8.1 There are no climate change or environmental implications as a result of this report.

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

11.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

11.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

12.0 Covid Implications

12.1 There are no Covid implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

13.0 Schedule of background papers

13.1 None

14.0 Appendices

14.1 Appendix 1 – Youth Council Annual Report

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON
YOUTH
COUNCIL

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City of Wolverhampton Council, Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1SH



CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON
YOUTH
COUNCIL

WCC-16-40 07/2020

YOUTH COUNCIL

2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT



Youth Council Annual Declaration Event

Youth Council

2019/20 Annual Report

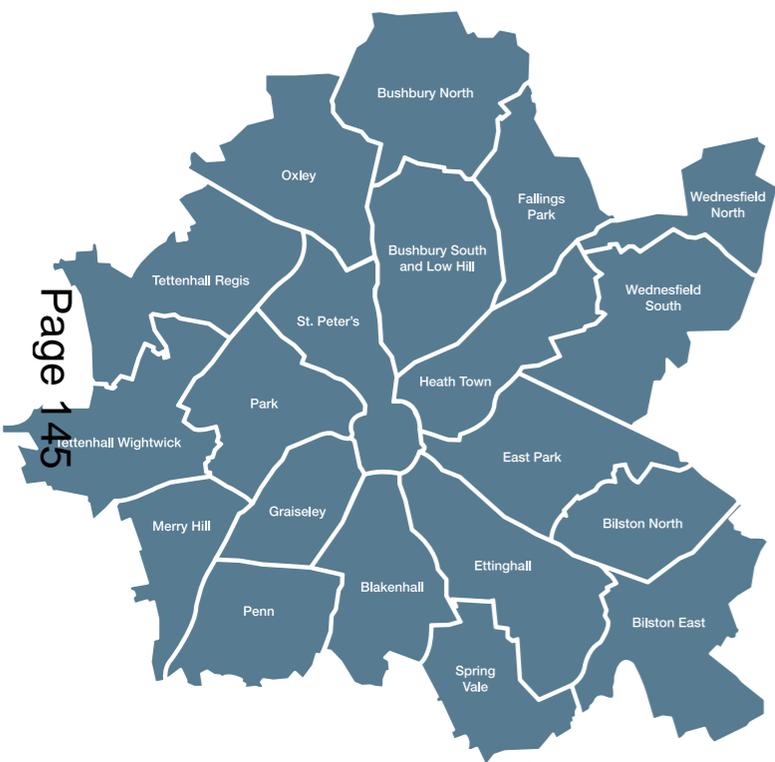
This year's Youth Council Annual Report highlights the work of the City's Youth Council and the strengthening of their relationship with the local authority.

Throughout the 12-month period there have been a total of 67 young people that have been members of the Youth Council and all of the Secondary Schools in the city have had reps on the Youth Council, as well as representatives from the Way and Councils Targeted Youth Voice groups.

Two young people have chaired the Youth Council Anna Tabner and Larisa Corr. Anna from April to October 2019 followed by Larisa October-March 2020. To ensure that the views of young people are from across the City, when a representative takes an officer's role an extra space is available to that school.

On 18th November 2019 44 representatives were announced at the Youth Council Annual Declaration Event that was co-chaired by Madam Mayor Claire Darke and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Youth Council. The new members had a period of induction which included an invite to the Youth Voice Christmas Party. The focus of the induction was getting to know each other, team building and working collaboratively.

City of Wolverhampton Council Wards



Bilston East	2
Bilston North	5
Blakenhall	5
Bushbury North	2
Bushbury South and Low Hill	4
East Park	3
Ettingshall	3
Fallings Park	4
Graiseley	4
Heath Town	4
Merry Hill	4
Oxley	2
Park	5
Penn	1
Springvale	0
St Peters	4
Tettenhall Regis	1
Tettenhall Wightwick	3
Wednesfield North	1
Wednesfield South	2
Others	
Wombourne	3
Willenhall	3
Perton	2

Youth Council Representatives per School

Aldersely	1	Home Educated	1	Royal Smewstow	2
Colton Hills	4	Khalsa	4	St Chads	3
Codsall High	1	Kings	4	St Edmunds	4
Coppice	2	Moreton	3	St Mathius	4
Girls High	4	Mosely Park	2	St Peters	5
Grammar	2	Newa	3	SWBA	2
Heath Park	4	Northern house	1	UTC	2
Highfields	4	Orchard	1	Wednesfield	2

Ethnicity of the Youth Council 2019/2020

Asian Total	Black Total	Mixed total	White Total				
Asain Indian	8	Black Africian	6	Mixed Black/Asian	1	White British	24
Asian Pakisitani	4	Black British	2	Mixed White/Asian	1	White Non-British	7
Asian British	2	Black Carribean	1	Mixed white and black	8	Other Ethnic group	2
Asian Other	1						

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Headstart

During the year we continued to develop our working relationship with Headstart and supported events such as the Headstart City Centre Engagement Event at Wolverhampton's City Centre Market. The event gave members of the Youth Council an opportunity to meet with residents and not only promote the work of Headstart but also of the work of the Youth Council. Staff from Headstart became more involved in supporting the work of the Youth Council which gave us the opportunity to work further with the Headstart Mijis ambassadors.

Children in Care Council (CiCC)

The Youth Council continues to develop links with the CiCC and throughout the year members of both groups have the chance to network with each other through events such as Take Over Day.

Engagement with Senior Leaders of the Council.

The Youth Council is a board member of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panels and has contributed to the discussions on a range of issues from Elected Home Education to the Consultation on the future of Towers Residential Centre.

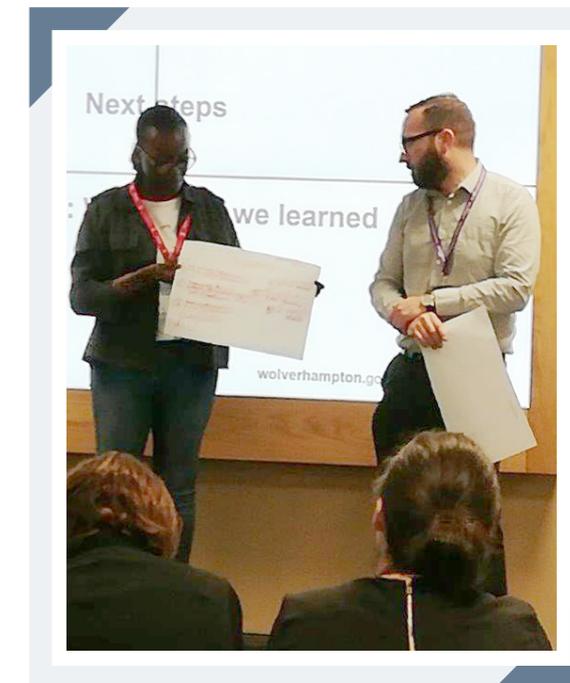
Members of the Youth Council were involved in the Councillor Scrutiny Away Day. This gave members an opportunity to raise issues of importance for young people of the city to Councillors, so that these could be reviewed over the municipal year.

The Leader of the Council Councillor Ian Brookfield meet with the group to discuss his vision for the future and members were able to share their views and that of the young people they represent about the challenges in the City

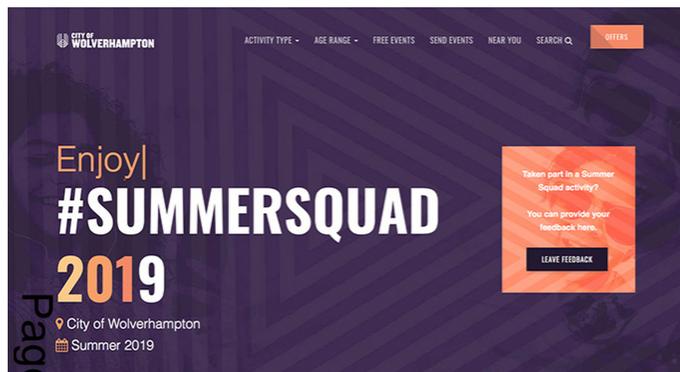
Members of the group attended the Annual Council meeting and had the opportunity to observe the Mayor Making Ceremony.

The Youth Council were involved in the City Councils Budget consultation and met with the Cabinet Member of Resources and Director of Resources. During this meeting the group were introduced to the new App that's being developed which allows participants to make their own budget for the Council.

As part of the Council's commitment to co-production with children and young people, members of the Youth Council were joined by representatives of the CiCC to lead on an event with the Strategic Executive Board. This event gave the directors of the council an opportunity to learn more about the work of all the Youth Voice groups in the city. The event also established how to assess the levels of involvement of children and young people in the co-production of services and support provided by the council.



Youth Strategy and Summer Squad



Following the meeting with the Leader of the Council the Youth Council were involved in the consultation and design of the new Youth Engagement Strategy for the city as well as the design and implementation of **Wolves Summer Squad Initiative**.

We also help develop the SummerSquad website by providing the council with the feedback on the website.



Members of the group were presenters at the formal launch of the **Youth Engagement Strategy** known as **#Yes**.

Involvement in Council Plans

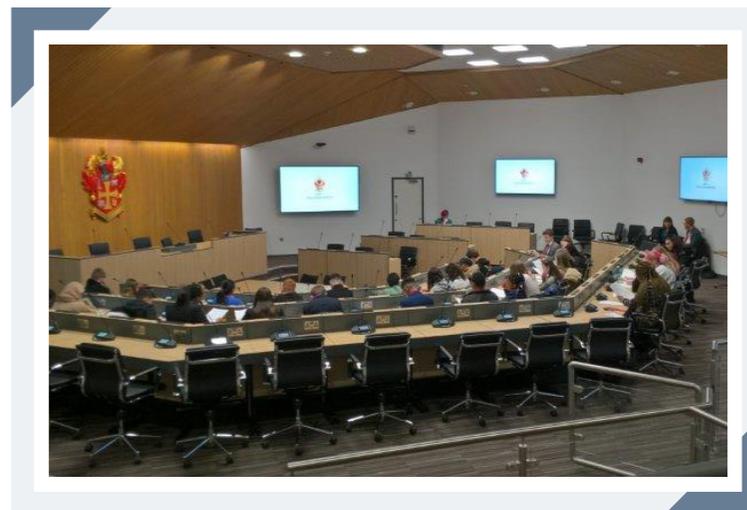
Throughout the year the Youth Council has been involved in the development of Council plans that included the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Curriculum Development Update.

Using the Citizen Lab approach the Youth Council completed workshops for the Taskforce looking at the challenges of school exclusions and how more support could be given to young people and families to reduce this in the city.

With the arrival of the City of Wolverhampton's draft Housing Strategy 2019 - 2024, Better Homes for All. The youth council shared their views and that of the young people they represent to help influence this strategy further.

The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) is the statutory community safety partnership and local police and crime board in Wolverhampton. A new 2020-2023 strategy has been drafted and the youth council contributed to the consultation.

The Youth Council agreed to be involved in The Wolverhampton Healthy Growth Partnership work on Obesity; small focus groups with the Youth Council took place to discuss the views of the group.



Takeover Challenge

Members of the Youth Council were involved in the City Councils Take Over Day challenge which gave young people the opportunity to develop policy on key council work this year the focus included the Youth Engagement Strategy such, Youth Violence Scrutiny Review, and Youth Unemployment.



Climate Change

A key focus of the Youth Council work this year has been climate change, an issue that the Youth Council debated with the Director of Environment earlier on in the year.

As part of the City Council's emergency motion, the Youth Council produced a video which for the first time in the history of Youth Council one of our members Syed Naqvi presented the video and gave a speech at Full Council meeting. He then followed this with a presentation to Council staff at one of the Managing Directors briefings. It outlined the facts concerning that particular section on work.



Youth Voice Residential

During August 2019 members of the Youth Council were joined by representatives from CiCC, B-Safe, Headstart Minis ambassador and volunteers from the Care Leavers Forum on the Youth Voice Residential to the Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

The activities included High Ropes Course, Indoor Caving, Zip Wire and Inflatable

Challenge. During the residential participants had the opportunity to be consulted on the Summer Squad developments and the Youth Engagement Strategy.

The Director of Children's Services Emma Bennett spent a day with the young people



Regional and National Links.

West Midlands Youth Police Crime Commissioners

In July 2019, Melvin Riley and Syed Naqvi were declared as the new Youth Police Crime Commissioners for Wolverhampton as part of their role supporting the Knife Angel visit to the city. In December 2019 members of the Youth Council attended the Police Commissioners Youth Summit which gives an opportunity for young people from across the West Midlands to meet up with senior figures from West Midlands Police

The theme for the event was Youth Violence and the launch of West Midlands Police Youth Opportunities Fund.



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British Youth Council Convention

The City of Wolverhampton Youth Council is a member of the British Youth Council. The British Youth Council empower young people aged 25 and under to influence and inform the decisions that affect their lives. BYC support young people to get involved in their communities and democracy locally, nationally and internationally, making a difference as volunteers, campaigners, decision-makers and leaders.

Members of the Youth Council attended the three British Youth Council Conventions held across the midlands which provide an opportunity for young people from different Youth Councils across the midlands to network and share campaigns and to discuss the National priorities that included Climate Change and Mental Health.

Record Make Your Mark

In 2019 Wolverhampton recorded a record Make Your Mark Vote of just under 10,000 votes with 40% of young people aged 11-18 taking part in the vote. Every secondary school in the city was involved in the vote. Knife crime and Environmental issues, including littering, received the most attention by the teenagers of Wolverhampton. Later on, we found that they were discussed at the House of Commons debate in the same year. According to Wolverhampton Council website, they are aiming “net carbon zero by 2028.”



United Kingdom House of Commons Annual Debate

Adeel Khan and Zain Alsoud attended the Youth Parliament Debate on Friday November 8th which gave them the opportunity to debate on the issues young people had voted for in Make Your Mark. Zain was chosen by the speaker to contribute to the discussions on Protect the Environment. She spoke passionately about the data that showed the impact of climate change and the consequences that we may have to live with if action is not taken. The Youth MPs voted for Protect the environment and Knife Crime as the national issues this will also be the titles of the British Youth Council Select Committees.



Towns Deal/ Actors of Urban Change

Towards the end of the year the chair of the Youth Council was invited to join MPs, Councillor, Business reps for the city to begin to plan the bid for up to 25 million pounds to support the development of High Streets in the City Centre, Wednesfield and Bilston.

Combined Youth Authority Forum

A former member of the Youth Council Kashmire Hawker is now a member of the Combined Youth Authority. Two of the Wolverhampton reps for the forum attended a Youth Council as part of the development of links between Wolverhampton and the Combined Authority. The discussions included the priorities of both forums and how the groups can continue to work together.

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 9 December 2020
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Report title	The Wolverhampton House Project Annual Report – One Year On	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds Children and Young People	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennet, Director of Children’s Services	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	Julia Tompson	Supported Accommodation Manager
	Tel	01902 555612
	Email	Julia.tompson@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report has been considered by		

Recommendation for noting

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The progress of the Wolverhampton House Project and how it has improved outcomes for children in care and leaving care.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the reader of the progress of the House Project as it reaches the milestone of the 12 months.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The City of Wolverhampton Council were approached by the National House Project with a view to delivering a local House Project in Wolverhampton. In July 2019, Cabinet endorsed the recommendation to implement a local House Project for Care Leavers within the City of Wolverhampton, the first self-funded House Project. The House Project framework gives greater placement choice for young people to be supported into independence and gives the additionality of peer support contributing to reducing feeling of loneliness and isolation. The theory of change that underpins the project is based upon improving young people's outcomes and wellbeing, supporting positive changes to enable care leavers to live successful healthy adult lives.
- 2.2 The successful implementation of a local House Project compliments the existing accommodation options available to the care leavers within Wolverhampton. The Wolverhampton House Project was officially launched on 28th October 2019, during National Care Leaver week. Relevant stakeholders, the young people identified, their carers and social workers were invited to learn more about the project and to celebrate the launch. Young People from other House Projects also attended to provide encouragement and open discussions with young people from Wolverhampton to inform them of the success of their projects and the benefits from participating. The launch was a huge success and attended by most young people that were invited. Ten young people who applied to be on the project were successful in being offered a place.

3.0 Highlights

Young People:

- 3.1 Despite the challenges faced with Covid 19, the young people have progressed extremely well. The ethos of the House Project is around promoting a sense of community and working in a group is instrumental in this. The House Project staff have worked tirelessly to continue to develop this sense of community by holding virtual meetings, and meeting with young people face to face to support them to develop the skills they need to progress.
- 3.2 At the time of writing this report, we have five young people now moved into their homes, two waiting for their keys, and another is actively sourcing a property in the area of her choice. We have recognised that two of our young people are not ready to progress into independence and still need support to develop their independence skills and their ability to keep safe, so they will be progressed at their own pace and will be invited to be part of the next cohort of young people. It is important to note that this is not seen as a failure but more a commitment to our young people and an acceptance of the diverse needs of our young people, and the support offered from the House Project will continue until they are ready.

Partnership working:

- 3.3 Partnership working has been instrumental towards the success of the first twelve months of the project:
- 3.4 Wolverhampton Homes – one of the main partners have shown their full commitment to the project and are active members of the House Project Steering Group. More recently they participated in virtual meetings with the young people, acknowledged and understood their needs, and sourced properties in the areas that are important to them, which has enabled them to access their support networks.
- 3.5 Reconomy – as with Wolverhampton Homes, have shown their full commitment to the project and again are active members of the House Project Steering Group. Despite the challenges faced with Covid-19 and key staff members being furloughed, they have continued to support the project. More recently they have committed to offering apprenticeships to all young people participating in the House Project.

The next steps:

- 3.6 The House Project will continue to support the young people whilst they live in the own properties, this support will continue for as long as the young people feel they need it.
- 3.7 A virtual event was held on 23rd September 2020 with young people inviting them to be part of the second cohort of the project. The event was well received and there are already seven young people interested. The team are currently in the process of supporting the young people to complete their application forms. In addition, an apprenticeship, ring fenced for care leavers has been created to support the expansion to cohort two.
- 3.8 The House Project is also already identifying young people for the third cohort.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 There are no alternative options as the project is a three-year programme

5.0 Reasons for decision

- 5.1 The progress of the Wolverhampton House Project highlights the improved outcomes achieved for children in care. It has also given the young people the additionality of peer support contributing to reducing feeling of loneliness and isolation

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The House Project was funded in its first year by troubled families, due to an underspend during this year, £25,000 was carried forward into year two.
- 6.2 The financial model of the House Project is based on supporting young people to step down from regulated placements (internal and purchased foster care and residential care) into House Project (HP) properties. The Covid-19 pandemic has delayed young people from leaving care and move on through the House Project. Finance have projected that the annual savings for the Project up to 31 March 2021 are estimated at approximately £109,000.

[JD/16112020/A]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 The contract with the National House Project has been signed and sealed via the City of Wolverhampton's legal services.
[SB/13112020/P]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 An equalities analysis has been completed and is regularly reviewed via the House Project Steering Group. This has raised no concerns.
- 8.2 The young people accessing the House Project are already disadvantaged and outcomes for young people in care and leaving are generally poorer than their peers. Traumatic experiences before entry into care can also cause difficulties, which may affect a young person's behaviour, self-esteem or trust in authority figures. The local House Project supports the ambition to improve opportunities and reduce the disadvantage that care leavers face in society, and the project provides ongoing support via peers and staff for as long the young people require. It is intended that the impact of this support will enable young people to transition into adulthood and independent living successfully.

9.0 Human resources implications

- 9.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.
- 9.2 The recruitment of an additional facilitator has been approved. This post has been established as an apprenticeship, ring-fenced for a care leaver.

10.0 Corporate Landlord implications

- 10.1 There are no direct corporate landlord implications resulting from this report. A report was presented and approved via Cabinet, Children's Services (2 March 2020), Cabinet, Housing (3 March 2020) and Strategic Executive Board (10 March 2020) to make available properties for letting within the Housing Revenue Account.

11.0 Health and Wellbeing implications

- 11.1 The theory of change that underpins the project is based upon improving young people's outcomes and wellbeing, supporting positive changes to enable care leavers to live successful healthy adult lives.

12.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 12.1 As part of the independence programme, the young people are supported to understand the impact of energy efficiency prior to and once moved into their properties.

13.0 Covid implications

- 13.1 The ethos of the House Project is around promoting a sense of community and working in a group is instrumental in this. Covid presented challenges in continuing to work in this way and the House Project staff have worked tirelessly to continue to develop this sense of community by holding virtual meetings, and meeting with young people face to face to support them to develop the skills they need to progress. Due to Social Landlord waiting lists also being temporarily suspended, there was a slight delay in the release of properties. This enabled the young people to develop their independence skills further and start to plan the furnishing of the pending homes. Once the suspension of the waiting list had been lifted, the young people were the first to be offered properties from Wolverhampton Homes and provided all the young people with decoration allowances to help them to decorate their homes.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

- 14.1 None

13.0 Schedule of Appendices

- 13.1 Appendix 1 – The House Project Annual Report 2020.

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CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Appendix 1.



THE
HOUSE PROJECT
Wolverhampton



ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2019 – OCTOBER 2020

Author: Julia Tompson – Supported Accommodation Manager – Children and Young People in Care Service

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Background

The City of Wolverhampton Council were approached by the National House Project with a view to delivering a local House Project in Wolverhampton supported by a local funder. In July 2019, cabinet endorsed the recommendation to implement a local House Project for Care Leavers within the City of Wolverhampton. The House Project framework gives greater placement choice for young people to be supported into independence and gives the additionality of peer support contributing to reducing feeling of loneliness and isolation. The theory of change that underpins the project is based upon improving young people's outcomes and wellbeing, supporting positive changes to enable care leavers to live successful healthy adult lives.

The successful implementation of a local House Project compliments the existing accommodation options available to the care leavers within Wolverhampton.

Launch

The Wolverhampton House Project was officially launched on 28th October 2019, during National Care Leaver week. Relevant stakeholders, the young people identified, their carers and Social Workers were invited to learn more about the project and to celebrate the launch. Young People from other House Projects also attended to provide encouragement and open discussions with young people from Wolverhampton to inform them of the success of their projects and the benefits from participating. The launch was a huge success and attended by most young people that were invited. Ten young people who applied to be on the project were successful in being offered a place.

Twelve months on:

Steering Group

The Steering Group continues to drive the project forward by meeting on a monthly basis. It has been agreed that due to the positive drive of the project, this group will meet bi-monthly moving forward. A member of the Care Leavers Independence Collective attends this meeting representing the young people and is now updating the Steering Group on the views of the young people accessing the project.

Psychological input

A key element of local House Project provision is psychological support to ensure that projects are run safely', with a particular recognition of the importance of developing a trauma-informed approach to the support of organisations, staff and young people. Ideally this should have been in place at the beginning of the project but due to difficulties with sourcing this facility, there was a delay with the start of this. The National House Project has recognised that this is a generic issue and moving forward are now looking to commission this for local authorities and include this within the partnership contract.

Changing Minds have been contracted for 12 months to provide this to the Project. This service is being delivered by Consultant Clinical Psychologist with experience of working with young people in, or leaving, care and the systems around them. Their role includes:

- 1)The facilitation of specialist psychological team formulations to create a shared understanding of the young person and their strengths and needs.

2) A monthly psychological consultation day which provides ongoing psychological advice and consultation for the project, supporting staff to feel able to better manage the needs of the young people, with space for staff reflection/self-care and support.

Staffing

Staff members attend a monthly Community of Practice training day with the National House Project and other local House Projects, where good practice ideas and moderation of the learning programme takes place. In addition, staff attended 3 days training with the National House Project in February 2020, where the focus was on trauma informed practice. The National House Project also provides monthly consultations with the House Project staff.

A 12-month secondment for an additional House Project Facilitator has been approved and recruitment to this post is currently in progress. It is important to note that the House Project staff have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to promote the ethos of the project and to maintain positive relationships with the young people, and they are commended for this commitment not only by the City of Wolverhampton, but also from the National House Project.

Staff have also been commended by the National House Project AQA lead for their passion and commitment in thinking outside of the box, when working with the young people. Note the commendation:

"I have just finished reviewing Ol's work on the Decision-Making module. Wow! I am so impressed with the work that Ol has done and the way he has been supported to achieve what was obviously a big step up for him. The evidence is great and particularly the way he has been challenged and supported by you all and by his peers. There is a real sense here of a team working together and supporting each other. The pitch videos are excellent, and I like the way that you as adults have helped the young people to share and develop their ideas. This is exactly what the House Project and ORCHIDS are all about."

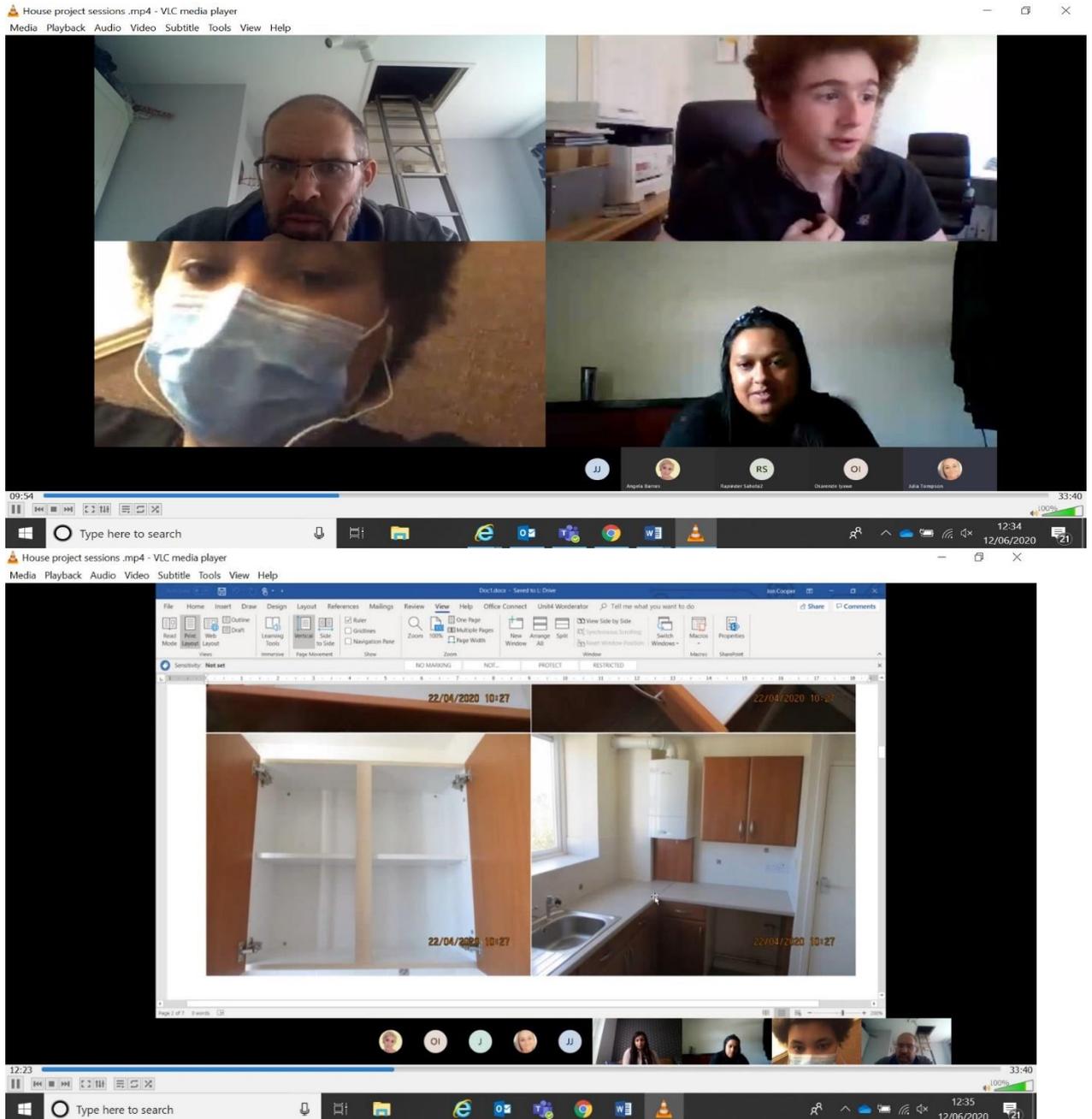
In addition, a Supported Accommodation Apprentice post has been approved, which will be ringfenced for Care Leavers. It is intended that the post holder will support the House Project team with the participation sessions.

Partnership working

Partnership working has been instrumental towards the success of the first twelve months of the project:

Wolverhampton Homes – one of the main partners have shown their full commitment to the project and are active members of the House Project Steering Group. More recently they participated in virtual meetings with the young people, acknowledged and understood their needs, and sourced properties in the areas that are important to them, which has enabled them to access their support networks. In addition, they have provided decoration allowances which has enabled the young people to have choice around how they decorate their homes.

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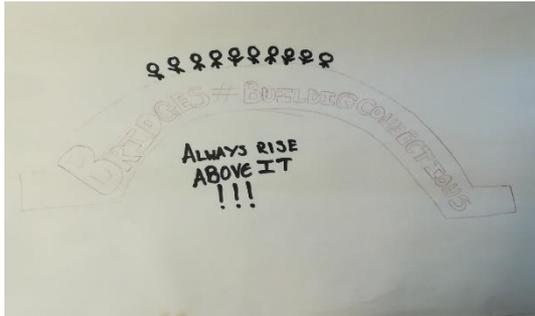


Reconomy – as with Wolverhampton Homes, have shown their full commitment to the project and again are active members of the House Project Steering Group. Despite the challenges faced with Covid-19 and key staff members being furloughed, they have continued to support the project. More recently they have committed to offering apprenticeships to all young people participating in the House Project.

Communications

The Wolverhampton House Project now has a microsite, which is linked to the National House Project Website – Wolverhampton was the first House Project to launch their microsite. This site is used to update on local information and celebrate the success of our young people.

In addition to the website, we have a Twitter page and a Facebook page. Within these social media platforms, the team provide:



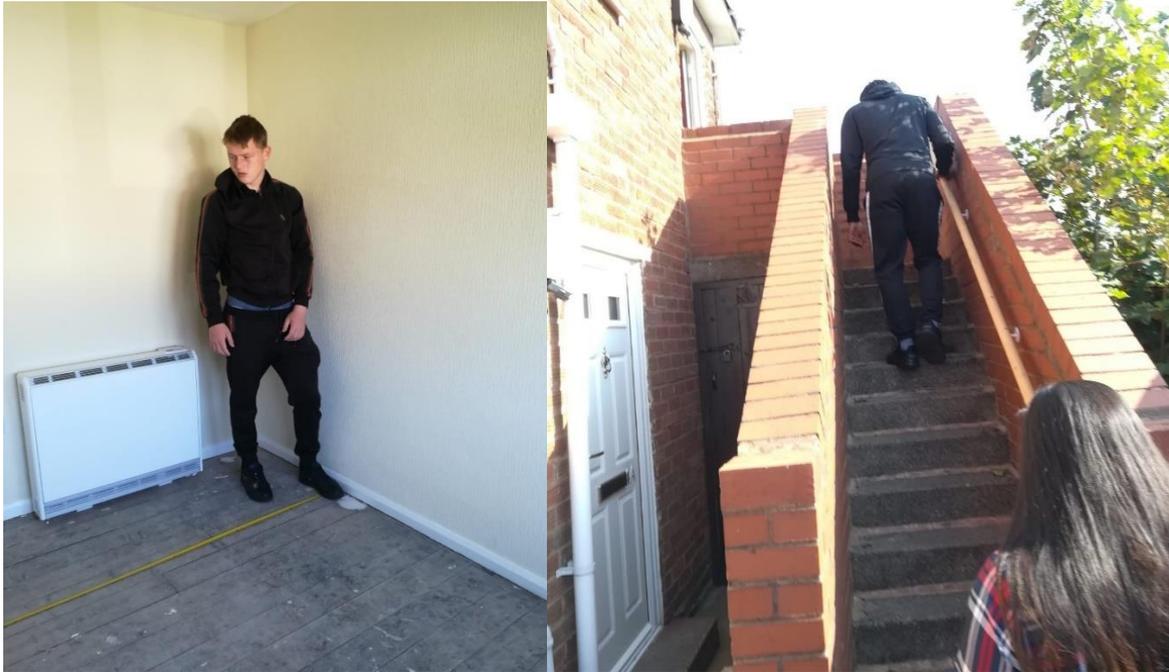
There is also a requirement for the young people to complete a learning programme, which constitutes the completion of 13 modules, all of which will develop the skills needed for them to progress into independence. They focus on an ORCHIDS framework, **Ownership, Responsibility, Community, Homes, Independence, Developmental** and **Sense of wellbeing**. The modules are as follows:

- Application and Interview
- Our rules base and identity
- Learning plan
- Safety plan
- Cook and share
- Residential
- Do something creative
- Independence
- Home
- Decision Making and Care Leavers National Movement
- Power, pitch and purpose
- Network event, Businesses and EET providers
- Benefit my community

All the modules are interlinked, and our young people have completed all those that they are able to complete without Covid restrictions, such as the Residential, Network event and Benefit my community. There are no plans to complete the three modules until restrictions are lifted but this has not prevented the young people from progressing. At the time of writing this report, we have five young people now moved into their homes, two waiting for their keys, and another is actively sourcing a property in the area of her choice. We have recognised that two of our young people are not ready to progress into independence and still need support to develop their independence skills and their ability to keep safe, so they will be progressed at their own pace and will be invited to be part of the next cohort of young people. It is important to note that this is not seen as a failure but more a commitment to our young people and an acceptance of the diverse needs of our young people, and the support offered from the House Project will continue until they are ready.

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Young People are continuing to invest in the project and there is a sense of community amongst the group. Young people are keeping in contact since moving into their own homes and checking in on each other. There have been noticeable developments in their skills as they transition into adulthood and they have recognised that being part of the House Project has enabled them to progress. One young person recently commented:

"I am so glad that I chose to do the House Project, I'm moving into my flat feeling 100% ready, rather than moving in and struggling. I think every young person in care should be part of it"

We have one young person who has become a member of the Care Leavers National Movement (CLNM). This group is made up of care leavers from local House Projects across the country. They use their skills as expert advisers to develop House Projects and improve outcomes for all young people leaving care. They are currently promoting the need for the recognition of Digital Poverty amongst young people leaving care.

One young person's journey

Reece attended the House Project launch in October 2020 and was reserved and nervous about being on the Project, expressing how he lacked confidence and did not like being part of groups with other young people. Reece felt that he was never good at academic work at school and his tutors always made him feel "dumb". Reece told the staff at The House Project during initial conversations, "If I don't work with you, pick your calls up or come to groups, you will just leave me alone, won't you"- this was his way of building a wall as he felt he had no confidence in his education/ academics and "everyone gave up on him".

Reece initially attended the group sessions; however, he was not always punctual, left early or did not engage fully in the sessions. Having done some one to one sessions

with Reece, a relationship was built between Reece and the House Project staff and he was supported to get to the sessions.

Reece started to enjoy the sessions and quickly showed his leadership skills. He encouraged others to be part of the group work and when his peers did not engage or feared doing a particular piece of group work, he was always a positive influence. Reece would sit next to peers that were shy or not as confident to include them in the groupwork and also conversation.

Reece initiated playing interactive board games in the session and this helped the group to bond quickly. The games were something that everyone looked forward to in the sessions and it felt like a real treat to the young people. He quickly made a strong connection with peers in the group and started independently coming to groups.

Reece's personal development has been huge during the last year. He attended sessions in the beginning of the project, sometimes angry, that would result into tears. This was due to a relationship breakdown with his mother. Reece hated being in care, whilst his other siblings were living with his mother. Reece would often attend sessions and ask to speak to staff separately as he had fallen out or had an argument with his mother.

One to one sessions and daily telephone conversations helped Reece deal with his emotions as he did not want external support from agencies. During Christmas, in a quiet session, Reece sang a rap for his mother. This was recorded and then sent to his mother. This was the point where Reece received a hug and a kiss from his mother, after a long time. From this point, Reece and his mother's relationship started to develop positively. During lockdown Reece moved into his mother's house and went on his first family holiday.

Reece's relationship with his family and mother went from strength to strength. Reece also met a girlfriend which helped with his independence and confidence further.

Reece confidently completed his portfolio for the House Project independently with House Project staff and sought no support from placement. Although Reece felt he was not academically capable, his creative skills overpowered this. He confidently lead and planned a residential for his group, planned for a Pitch to managers to raise money for the Residential and a community/ network event to awareness of the House Project. Reece also had great plans for the House Project base and designed the logo for the Project. Reece was also able to restoratively amend historic issues that he had with peers.

Reece has shown great budgeting skills during his move into independent living. Reece prioritised what he felt was an essential, finding the best deals. The relationship between Reece and his mother is still strong and his mother has been part of Reece's journey to independent living.

During the last year, Reece has grown in patience, maturity, confidence and independence holistically. Reece has a great sense of humour that is infectious, and he can make any bad day/ situation into a positive one. Reece is really caring, helpful, protective of his loved ones- including his leaving care staff and is not afraid to ask for help or admit his failures/ wrong-doings.

Financial implications

The House Project was funded in its first year by troubled families, due to an underspend during this year, £25,000 was carried forward into year 2.

The financial model of the House Project is based on supporting young people to step down from regulated placements (internal and purchased foster care and residential care) in to House Project (HP) properties. The Covid-19 pandemic has delayed young people from leaving care and move on through the House Project. Finance have projected that the annual savings for the Project up to 31 March 2021 are estimated at approximately £109,000.

The next steps -

The House Project will continue to support the young people whilst they live in the own properties, this support will continue for as long as the young people feel they need it.

A virtual event was held on 23rd September 2020 with young people inviting them to be part of the second cohort of the project. The event was well received and there are already 7 young people interested. The team are currently in the process of supporting the young people to complete their application forms.

The House Project is also already identifying young people for the third cohort.





CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 9 December 2020
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Report title	Partnership Agreement between City of Wolverhampton Council and Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Public Health and Wellbeing	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
Originating service	Communities	
Accountable employee	Sam Axtell	Consultation and Community Involvement Officer
	Tel	01902 554918
	Email	Sam.axtell2@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Public Health Leadership Team	17 November 2020
	Strategic Executive Board	19 November 2020

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve City of Wolverhampton Council submitting a joint funding bid with the Voluntary Sector Council to the National Lottery for a three year programme to develop the work of Wolverhampton for Everyone.
2. Authorise the Director of Governance to put in place a legally binding agreement between City of Wolverhampton Council and the Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Cabinet to agree to the Council entering into an agreement with Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (WVSC) to jointly put forward a bid to the National Lottery.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Since late 2018, City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) has been collaborating with Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (WVSC) to deliver an initiative called Wolverhampton for Everyone. Wolverhampton for Everyone (WE) aims to create a people-powered city, where everyone feels able to participate in creating the city they want to live and work in.
- 2.2 WE is a movement comprised of a network of individuals and organisations in the City with the partnership anchored by WVSC and CWC.
- 2.3 WVSC exists to support the development and sustainability of an effective voluntary and community sector, promoting the principle and practice of voluntary and community activity, in order to facilitate the development of diverse, strong communities and to enhance quality of life within the City of Wolverhampton.
- 2.4 In 2019 CWC agreed to fund the VSC to develop work in this area and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was developed to record the basis on which both parties would collaborate. The Memorandum of Understanding agreed that CWC and WVSC would work together to create Wolverhampton for Everyone and agreed the basis on which we would collaborate with each other. This included:
- (a) **collaborate and co-operate.** Establish and adhere to the governance structure set out in the MoU to ensure that activities are delivered and actions taken as required;
 - (b) **be accountable.** Take on, manage and account to each other for performance of the respective roles and responsibilities set out in the MoU;
 - (c) **be open.** Communicate openly about major concerns, issues or opportunities relating to the Project;
 - (d) **learn, develop and seek to achieve full potential.** Share information, experience, materials and skills to learn from each other and develop effective working practices, work collaboratively to identify solutions, eliminate duplication of effort, mitigate risk and reduce cost;
 - (e) **adopt a positive outlook.** Behave in a positive, proactive manner;
 - (f) **adhere to statutory requirements and best practice.** Comply with applicable laws and standards including EU procurement rules, data protection and freedom of information legislation;
 - (g) **act in a timely manner.** Recognise the time-critical nature of the Project and respond accordingly to requests for support;

- (h) **manage stakeholders effectively;**
- (i) **deploy appropriate resources.** Ensure sufficient and appropriately qualified resources are available and authorised to fulfil the responsibilities set out in the MoU; and
- (j) **act in good faith** to support achievement of the Key Objectives and compliance with these Principles.

- 2.5 Subsequently CWC identified a Councillor Champion for Wolverhampton for Everyone to support the work.
- 2.6 In the subsequent months the work of WE has grown and developed and the WVSC, as the accountable body, has been liaising with the National Lotteries regarding the possibility of submitting a bid to fund future activity over a three year period. Colleagues from the Legal Department have advised that the original Memorandum of Understanding would not be sufficient for the purposes of embodying the partnership arrangement and that a new collaboration agreement in respect of the funding bid needs to be authorised by Cabinet.
- 2.7 The purpose of the collaboration partnership agreement is to enter into a legally binding agreement that sets out the respective roles and responsibilities of the WVSC and the CWC for the purposes of applying for approximately £380,000 of Lottery funding. The agreement will not involve the procurement of any goods or services.
- 2.8 The WVSC are applying to the National Lottery Community Fund for a three year programme to develop the work of Wolverhampton for Everyone. The pandemic has forced a pause in the face to face activity that Wolverhampton for Everyone had been developing. Activities have since been conducted online with some success, particularly work to Reimagine the City in ten years' time, in which over 70 people have been involved.
- 2.9 It is proposed that, if the funding bid is successful, CWC would oversee the project alongside WVSC. This will involve overseeing the work, leading on particular work streams and jointly making decisions about the allocation of funds to support work within communities.
- 2.10 There are many benefits to the Council in supporting this programme of work. Not only will it support the Recovery Programme, it will also support the Council's Place Based working and support communities across the city to connect and thrive – a key Council priority.
- 2.11 The agreement will establish WVSC as the lead organisation and accountable body for the bid to the National Lottery Community Fund. CWC will be the main partner in developing the work with the VSC. The Council will provide up to two and a half days a week of officer time to support the work of Wolverhampton for Everyone. At present CWC is providing this level of support so this proposal would not require any further resources as it is within current capacity.

- 2.12 The bid will include funding for costs such as renting space for activities (when restrictions allow), for staffing and for resources and materials to support the work, including money that will go directly to communities to activate activities in areas.
- 2.13 The bid will build on the previous work developed by the two organisations and will particularly focus on safely activating community activities across the city in the light of the global pandemic. It will build on the successful programme of activity since March 2020 when WE has delivered much of its work remotely. However, WE will ensure that its work continues to be inclusive through the development of packs to activate activities such as repair cafes, share sheds, trade schools and greening and growing activities, as well as working to extend digital inclusion and providing telephone support to support people to set up activities.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 Since its inception in late 2018, WE has developed a comprehensive range of activities and has developed many successful initiatives including:
- Briefing Council employees and Councillors about their work
 - Establishing a base for activities at Newhampton Arts Centre
 - Supporting a local resident to bring TEDx to Wolverhampton. (TEDx are events organised by individuals who seek to uncover new ideas and to share the latest research in their local areas that spark conversations in their communities)
 - Establishing a network of Repair Cafes in the City, which has encouraged and supported people to repair items rather than placing them in landfill
 - Bringing Trade School to Wolverhampton. In September 2019, 15 individuals led sessions on issues as diverse as making videos on your phone to making accessories out of junk items, in exchange for inexpensive barter items. In September 2020 Wolverhampton for Everyone collaborated with CoLab Dudley and Bearwood Community Centre to deliver Trade School online
 - Delivering a 'design jam' on developing a Playful City. 45 people attended and six prototype activities were delivered in the October 2019 half term
 - Delivering two #OneGreenGov events that brought people together around the issue of climate change. Seven prototype ideas were developed, including an idea for a City Garden Festival, which would have been delivered in March 2020, but had to be postponed to the Government lockdown
 - Developed a network of social entrepreneurs
- 3.2 During the pandemic, Wolverhampton for Everyone has continued its work using digital means to continue to connect and inspire people. During this time the team has continued to meet virtually. WE has facilitated a trilogy of events intended to help people to RE:IMAGINE, RE:IGNITE and RE:ACTIVATE (i.e. design, create and run new projects in communities). The last session in October saw 35 people attend. WE has also supported the network of Repair Cafes to consider how to continue their work, and an online repair club is soon to be established in the City.
- 3.3 Lottery Funding will enable the team to continue their work which will complement the Relighting Our City strategy and Place Based working as part of the City's overall Recovery Programme. The work programme will offer a blended approach of digital and face to face interactions which can be agilely moved between as circumstances allow.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 Option 1 would be not to sign a partnership agreement with the VSC. The Lottery has given feedback that they think the bid is strengthened by a partnership approach. So whilst it would still be technically possible for the VSC to submit the bid without Council support, this would likely to be received less favourably by the National Lottery and risks losing an additional resource of £380,000 to support the recovery programme in the City.
- 4.2 Option 2 would be in the event of the bid being unsuccessful, CWC and WVSC would review the current informal partnership arrangement. Agreement would be sought if this had any legal, financial or other implications.

5.0 Reasons for decision(s)

- 5.1 The decision to authorise the agreement between the CWC and the VSC will have the potential to bring a significant new community resource into the City at a time when many communities have been hard hit by the effects of the pandemic. This work aligns with CWC's place based approach and it is intended to pilot Wolverhampton for Everyone's approaches in at least one of the place based areas.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 This proposal will have no direct financial implications for the Council since the proposal is not concerned with procuring any goods or services. Instead, it relates to entering into a partnership arrangement with the VSC, who will be the accountable body for the funding received. CWC will collaborate with the VSC to oversee and deliver the work programme and ensure synergy with wider initiatives.
- 6.2 This will entail, for instance, establishing and adhering to an agreed governance structure; accounting to each other for performance; communicating openly about concerns; sharing information, experience and skills; managing stakeholders and resources effectively and acting in good faith to achieve the objectives of the project.
[LD/10112020/D]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 Under the Council's Constitution the Cabinet has delegation to work with partners and other bodies to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wolverhampton and its citizens. Working with the Voluntary Sector Council to submit the funding bid and achieving the outcomes of the bid could benefit the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wolverhampton and its citizens.
- 7.2 The Council will need to enter into a legally binding agreement with the Voluntary Sector Council to govern the relationship between the two organisations including the roles and responsibilities of each organisation to achieve the desired outcomes.
- 7.3 Legal Services will draft the agreement between the two organisations in accordance with paragraph 6.2 above.
[SZ/10112020/P]

8.0 Equalities implications

8.1 An equality analysis has not been completed for this piece of work, since the VSC is the accountable body responsible for producing this.

9.0 Climate change and environmental implications

9.1 Wolverhampton for Everyone has sustainability and environmental concerns at the heart of its mission. 'Mindful of Environmental Impact' is one of the key principles and WE seeks to ensure that thinking about environmental impact is integral to all planning and activities. As such, activities that mitigate against climate change and support the environment have been and will continue to be centre stage. For example, greening the city was one of seven themes to emerge from the recent Re:imagine session.

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

12.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

12.1 By addressing a wide range of social, environmental and economic factors through drawing people together and enabling them to have agency over their own lives, WE is addressing the wider determinants of health.

13.0 Covid Implications

13.1 As detailed in section 3 of this report, WE has had to adapt its approach in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and will continue to do so. Currently all WE activity is digital, and it is proposed to develop a blended approach of digital and face to face activities as circumstances allow, with safety a key concern.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

14.1 None

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 9 December 2020
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Report title	Appointments to Outside Bodies Bilston Relief in Need Charity Bilston Educational Charity	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Ian Brookfield Leader of the Council	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	Bilston East, Bilston North	
Accountable Director	David Pattison, Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee	Dereck Francis	Democratic Services Officer
	Tel	01902 555835
	Email	dereck.francis@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the reappointment of Councillor Stephen Simkins onto the Bilston Relief in Need Charity Bilston Educational Charity for a further four year term of office expiring in 2024.
2. Approve the appointment of Councillor Zee Russell onto the Bilston Relief in Need Charity Bilston Educational Charity for a four year term of office expiring in 2024.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To approve the appointment of Council representatives onto the Bilston Relief in Need Charity Bilston Educational Charity.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Bilston Relief in Need Charity Bilston Educational Charity, which embraces a number of former Bilston Parish/Township Charities, was established by a scheme approved by the Charity Commission in 1983 with the objective of relieving, either generally or individually, persons resident in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Bilston who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. The scheme provides for the appointment amongst others of two nominated trustees by the Council. The four year term of office of one of the Council's current nominees, Councillor Stephen Simkins has expired. It is recommended that Councillor Simkins be re-appointed for a further four year term.
- 2.2 Councillor Philip Page is the Council's other representative trustee on the Charity. His four year term of office expires in 2023.
- 2.3 The Trustees to the Charity have also invited the Council to nominate a third representative to serve as a trustee for a four year term.

3.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 3.1 The alternative option to the recommendations would be to not fill the vacancies. This would prevent the Charity from operating with a full complement of trustees.

4.0 Reasons for decision(s)

- 4.1 The decision will ensure that the Charity has its requisite number of trustees.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with recommendations of this report as the appointments do not attract a special responsibility allowance.
[GE/24112020/A]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 The scheme providing for the establishment of the Bilston Relief in Need Charity Bilston Educational Charity requires the Council to appoint representative trustees.
[TS/23112020/W]

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

8.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1 There are no climate change and environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

10.1 There are no Corporate landlord implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

11.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

11.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

12.0 Covid Implications

12.1 There are no Covid implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

13.0 Schedule of background papers

13.1 None

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