

Worcestershire Strategy f

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INTRODUCTION

Worcestershire is ambitious for all children and young people and has set out a challenging agenda through its Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2021- 2023: 'Putting children at the heart of everything we do'. Taking the lead from the CYPP, the vision is for 'Worcestershire to be a wonderful place for all children and young people to grow up'. We believe it is important that all children and young people:

- Are safe from harm
- Reach their full potential

VISION AND PURPOSE

The consultation activity we have carried out in producing this strategy has led to agreement of the following vision for SEND:

In Worcestershire we want all children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities to be truly seen and respected as individuals and to be the best they can be.

The purpose of this Strategy is to set out how we plan to deliver this vision through seven key priorities. It will drive an ambitious programme of work that will be overseen by representatives of the accountable bodies through the SEND Strategy Board (currently known as the SEND Improvement Board), reporting to Worcestershire' Health and Wellbeing Board. The SEND Strategy B

WHERE ARE WE NOW AND WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

In producing this strategy,

A Person -Centred Approach

Improvements

- Parent carers feel better engaged and informed.
- Professionals embed co-production with parent carers in the design of services and processes impacting on families.
- Improved relationships and joint working with parent carer groups such as Families in Partnership.
- CYP are consulted about SEND provision and strategy.

Areas for development

- Strengthen co-production across all services in education health and social care.
- Support educational settings with parent carer engagement and develop further guidance to support this work.
- Ensure engagement and person-centered approaches with CYP ensure the voice of the child is central to casework and strategic decision making.

Integration and Operational Delivery

Improvements

- Services work in partnership across the local area to agree priorities for funding and action.
- A joint commissioning strategy is in place which clearly defines the roles of partners and processes for decision making.
- The Designated Clinical Officer role is well embedded and ensures SEND and health needs of CYP are prioritised.
- Service integration impacting on CYP with SEND has been reviewed and improved through the formation of Worcestershire C , Starting Well Partnership and Hereford and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group.
- There have been significant improvements in the Education Health Care Needs Assessment process impacting on timeliness and quality.
- Outcomes achieved for CYP by SEND are actively tracked and monitored and actions taken to improve these.

Areas for development

- Deliver commissioning intentions described in Joint Commissioning Strategy through Joint Commissioning Group activity.
- Implement and enhance Joint Commissioning Quality Assurance Framework.
- Improvement of the annual review process for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) including the multiagency response and continue to make improvements to the quality of EHCPs following initial needs assessment.
- Development of a single plan for SEND learners across education health and social care.
- Focus on improving attendance of students with SEND where possible.

Early Intervention

Improvements

- Enabled Early Years (EY) settings to refer to our Pre-School Forum which considers the needs of our youngest children with SEND.
- Better understanding and monitoring of the 'Graduated Response' described in the SEND Code of Practice (2015) in mainstream schools and partner organisations.
- SEND provision reviewed across education and short breaks to strengthen early intervention and improve outcomes for CYP.

Areas for development

- Implementation of the Exclusions and Alternative Provision plan.
- Further review and improvement of the

Workforce Development

Improvements

- Workforce training implemented across SEND services in education, social care, and health.
- SEND Training and Development network undertakes needs analysis and planning for educational settings.
- E-Learning modules developed to support understanding

- Understanding of SEND and the impact on CYP and families across services and educational settings

Further improvements needed identified anew in the 2021 survey were:

Emotional health and wellbeing

As we move on from the Covid-19 pandemic, our ongoing priority to ensure that the emotional health and well-being needs are met is particularly important. We recognise the need to promote good mental health for CYP with SEN within their educational settings, families and communities, to focus on prevention for groups of CYP at risk and to intervene quickly and at an appropriate level where CYP are experiencing emotional distress or have mental health difficulties. *In the next four years we will achieve this by:*

- Acknowledging the importance of CYP's emotional health and wellbeing post pandemic and developing and improving universal, targeted and specialist support in response to these changing needs.
- Developing 'place-based' partnerships as part of the development of Integrated Care arrangements.
- Implementing Herefordshire and Worcestershire's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Analysing the impact of mental health support for CYP with SEND and using this information to develop priorities for improvement and joint commissioning.

NEXT STEPS

A detailed action plan describing the activity, timelines and outcomes for the actions needed to progress these priorities will be co-produced and published by December 2021. This plan will clearly indicate how we will measure the success of our activity and the awareness raising and workforce development which will be put in place for priority areas. Where appropriate this action plan will reference aligned strategies, which will provide more detail regarding the context and ways of working which will support the aspirations of this SEND strategy. Worcestershire's SEND Improvement Board will make the transition during this period to become the SEND Strategy Board and will oversee the implementation of this strategy and report annually to stakeholders on progress against the action plan and overall aspirations contained in the strategy. This will be informed by self-evaluation, stakeholder feedback, robust monitoring of activity planned and analysis of data about outcomes for CYP with SEND.

DEFINITIONS / GLOSSARY

All-age Disability Service: The number one priority for Worcestershire County Council is for children and young people within the County to have the best outcomes in life. This includes those who face the additional challenges of having a disability. The All-age Disability Service seeks to improve both the experiences of support and co-ordination, along with improved outcomes through a joined up 'offer' for children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs.

Annual review: The review of an EHCP which the Local Authority must make as a minimum every 12 months.

Assess, Plan, Do, Review: Also known as the Graduated Response, this is a guide which enables educational settings to plan and implement support for children and young people

with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

Autism: Autism is a developmental disability affecting how people communicate and interact with those around them. Autistic people may have difficulties with social communication/interaction, display repetitive and restrictive behaviour, display and over/under sensitivity, have highly focused interests, have anxiety, and shutdowns/meltdowns.

Clinical Commissioning Groups: CCGs are clinically led groups that include all the GP groups in their geographical area. The aim of this is to give GPs and other clinicians the power to influence commissioning decisions for their patients. CCGs are overseen by [NHS England](#) (including its Regional Offices and Area Teams). These structures manage primary care commissioning, including holding the NHS Contracts for GP practices NHS.

Care Quality Commission: The CQC registers, monitors, inspects, and regulates health and adult social care services in England. They ensure services meet government standards for quality and safety.

Co-production: Co-production is a way of working which builds on the strengths of families, communities, and services, and involves everyone from the beginning as equal partners. Worcestershire CCGs are committed to working in partnership with families, and other agencies, to create effective services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

DCO: Designated Clinical Officer: The officer supports Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group to meet its statutory duties for children and young people with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities. They also support the agreement of health services as part of an Education, Health, and Care Plan.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS): These relate to those aged 18 or over, who lack mental capacity, and require treatment or care through a care home or hospital. If a person required continuous supervision and control, then a DoLS authorisation may be required, and can be applied for by a managing authority such as the hospital or care home.

Early help: Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.

Early Years Provider: A provider of early education places for children under five years of age. This can include state-funded and private nurseries as well as child minders.

Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP): An EHCP details the education, health and social care support that is to be provided to a child or young person who has SEN or a disability. It is drawn up by the Local Authority after an EHC needs assessment of the child or young person has determined that an EHC plan is necessary, and after consultation with relevant partner agencies.

EHCNA: Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment. Worcestershire Children First will carry out an EHCNA when more specialist help is required to support children with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities. The assessment will be turned into an Education, Health, and Care Plan.

Emotional Health and Wellbeing: The government established a task force in 2015 to promote, protect and improve children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. In

collaboration with the CCG Worcestershire C developed the transformation plan to improve services within the County, providing advice, support, and training.

Exclusions and Alternative Provision Implementation Plan: Local and national context highlighted the need for Worcestershire C to carry out a review of their approach to exclusions and the use of alternative provision settings. As a result of this review the Implementation Plan was created with a focus on five key areas: Exclusion prevention by mainstream schools, The exclusions and AP pathway, Communication and collaboration between settings, Integrated service approach, and Equity and strategic clarity in commissioning arrangements and processes.

Further Education (FE) College: A college offering continuing education to young people over the compulsory school age of 16. The FE sector in England includes general further education colleges, sixth form colleges, specialist colleges and adult education institutes.

Graduated Response : A model of action and intervention in early education settings, schools, and colleges to help children and young people who have special educational needs. The approach recognises that there is a continuum of special educational needs and that, where necessary, increasing specialist expertise should be brought to bear on the difficulties that a child or young person may be experiencing.

Health and Wellbeing Board: A Health and Wellbeing Board acts as a forum where local commissioners across the NHS, social care, and public health work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities. The boards are intended to increase democratic input into strategic decisions about health and wellbeing services, strengthen working relationships between health and social care and encourage integrated commissioning of health and social care services.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy: This strategy sets out how Worcestershire County Council will support Worcestershire residents to be healthier, live longer, and have a better quality of life. Targeted at those who's health is currently the poorest.

Here2Help: Here2Help is a community action scheme which was originally dedicated to helping those in need of support during the CV-19 pandemic. The service has been expanded offering advice, support, and help to organisations and people of all ages within Worcestershire.

partners will make to best meet people's health and social care needs.

Local authority: An organisation responsible for the delivery of public services, and for providing facilities within a certain area.

Mental Capacity Act: The Mental Capacity Act 2005 provides a legal framework to act and make decisions on behalf of those, aged 16 and over, who lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions in relation to care and treatment.

NEET: Not in Education, Employment, or Training. It is the law for 16 year olds leaving school to participate in further education or training until the age of 18. The Post-16 NEET Team at Worcestershire C offer advice, guidance, and support to those young people who are currently NEET.

Ofsted: Ofsted inspect and regulate services who provide training, education and care within England. Their aim is to promote improvement, ensuring high quality service is provided to children and young people.

Preparation for adulthood: As part of the Worcestershire SEND Strategy there is a focus on Preparation for adulthood, with the aim of creating a whole life approach to improve the personal transition experience and journey to adulthood. A multi-agency approach has been taken to offer a wide range of support to children and young people with SEND to enable them to achieve their ambitions.

Pre-School Forum:

