



**Walsall Council**

## **Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Meeting to be held on: **15 September 2020 AT 6.00 P.M.**

Meeting to be held via: **Microsoft Teams**

Public access to meeting via: <https://youtu.be/3D48R8UZKNs>

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Chair: Councillor M. Statham  
Vice Chair: Councillor T. Jukes  
Councillor D. Barker  
Councillor H. Bashir  
Councillor B. Douglas-Maul  
Councillor L. Jeavons  
Councillor M. Follows  
Councillor S. Neville  
Councillor L. Rattigan  
Councillor C. Statham  
Councillor S. Wade

### **PORTFOLIO HOLDER:**

Councillor T. Wilson.

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## AGENDA

1.	<b>Apologies</b> To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee.	
2.	<b>Substitutions</b> To receive notice of any substitutions for a Member of the Committee for the duration of the meeting.	
3.	<b>Declarations of interest and party whip</b> To receive declarations of interest or the party whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda.	
4.	<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)</b> To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda (if applicable).	
5.	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b> To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting that took place on 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2020.	<u>Enclosed</u>
<b><u>Scrutiny</u></b>		
6.	<b>Covid-19 update</b>  a. Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Children's Services. b. Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children's routine health assessments.	<u>Enclosed To Follow</u>
<b><u>Overview</u></b>		
7.	<b>Areas of Focus</b> For the Committee to agree its areas of focus for the municipal year 2020/21.	<u>Enclosed</u>
8.	<b>Forward plans</b> To receive the Forward Plan of Key Decisions from Cabinet and the Black Country Executive Joint Committee, to identify any further matters, which Members feel, may benefit from scrutiny.	<u>Enclosed</u>
9.	<b>Date of next meeting</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2020, 6pm. via Microsoft Teams.	

## The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

### Specified pecuniary interests

The pecuniary interests which are specified for the purposes of Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 are the interests specified in the second column of the following:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Prescribed description</b>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by a member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of a member.  This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Regulations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority:  (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and  (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to a member's knowledge):  (a) the landlord is the relevant authority;  (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:  (a) that body (to a member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and  (b) either:  (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or  (ii) if the share capital of that body is more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

## **Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)**

### **Access to information: Exempt information**

#### **Part 1**

#### **Descriptions of exempt information: England**

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
  - (a) to give any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
8. Information being disclosed during a meeting of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel when considering flood risk management functions which:
  - (a) Constitutes a trades secret;
  - (b) Its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the risk management authority);
  - (c) It was obtained by a risk management authority from any other person and its disclosure to the public by the risk management authority would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that other person.

## **CHILDRENS SERVICES Scrutiny AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Conference Room 2, Council House, Walsall**

### **Committee Members Present**

Councillor M. Statham (Chair)  
Councillor T. Jukes (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor D. Barker  
Councillor H. Bashir  
Councillor K. Sears  
Councillor C. Statham

### **Portfolio Holders Present**

Councillor T. Wilson - Children's, Health, and Well Being

### **Officers Present**

Colleen Male	Assistant Director
Andrea Potts	Assistant Director
Beverley Barnett-Jones	Team Manager
Jodie Berry	Assistant Manager
Michelle Cummings	C & Y P Champion
Adele Ellis	Head of Service
Maggie Mac	Team Manager
Fiona Wilson	Adolescent Hub Worker
Nikki Gough	Democratic Services Officer

### **49/19 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors B. Douglas- Maul, L. Jeavons, M. Follows, L. Rattigan and S. Wade.

### **50/19 Substitutions**

Councillor K. Sears substituted on behalf of Councillor L. Rattigan.

### **51/19 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

## **52/19 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

## **53/19 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were considered. The Chair asked Officers to confirm the accuracy of the first paragraph on page 9 and it was confirmed by Officers that this was accurate.

## **Resolved**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be approved.**

## **54/19 Adolescent Support Service – Turning point overview**

The Adolescent Support Service named ‘Turning Point’, was developed to support young people aged 10 + who were at risk of coming into the care of the Local Authority. The service was focussed on working with young people and their families to secure improved outcomes and prepare them for adulthood by supporting family strengths and relationships, challenging and disrupting harm to young people in and outside of the family home.

The aim of the service was to:

- Empower young people and families,
- To prevent family breakdown,
- To reduce risk both in and outside of the family home,
- To encourage and build on family strengths and relationships,
- Whole systems working together,
- Working contextually to safeguard young people from harm.

The Team Manager (Turning Point) informed the Committee that this service was developed as part of the transformation programme developed to provide a more effective response to young people, in particular adolescents. Support was provided for as long as needed to reduce the circumstances that lead to children requiring a statutory intervention; this could be keeping children safe within families, getting a child back into full time education or preventing a child from re-offending. In order to design the service Managers had talked to young people to find out what made a difference in their lives.

The Team Manager stated that the redesigned service focused on what children needed to stay safe at home and have fulfilling lives. The service works in a specialist way with a young people’s panel meeting every month to input into the service, and was considered national best practice. Young People were engaged in positive activities and gained new friendships with people similar to themselves. Families were encouraged to build on families strengths and work on communication.

The Committee were informed of some of the techniques used to influence families and assist them to understand behaviour. A Member questioned if this was a person

centric approach. Officers confirmed that was correct and that there was no 'one size fits all' approach with each plan being individual and family centred.

The service was a 3-year model of work, which also included generic sessions for the whole community. There were a number of young people involved in the service present at the meeting, they were present at the meeting and addressed the Committee to describe the specialised team as comprised of; -

- Family group conference coordinator.
- Substance misuse lead.
- Two Speech and language therapists.
- Clinical psychologist.
- Two Exploitation and violence reduction workers.
- Six ASH Workers.
- Assistant team manager.
- Team manager.
- Young people's panel.

A young person described the outcomes achieved as including:

- Thirty-nine children from thirty-one families were currently engaging with the service,
- Two young people had returned home after almost four years in care,
- Nine young people had their cases closed successfully and had remained with their family,
- One family did not engage,
- One child went into care.

A young person read a poem that they had written about the impact that staff from the service had had on her life. Members agreed that this was exceptional and asked for a copy to be circulated to all members.

The young people described feedback from families and the positive impact that the service was having. Members questioned why it had not been possible to engage all families. Officers stated that as it was not a statutory service, families needed to be willing to engage, and for this particular family they felt it was too late and the young person continued to disengage. It was noted that the service was still developing and gaining a realistic view of what could be achieved. A Member asked if anything could have been done differently to support the family and assist them to engage. Officers stated that the service was relatively new and had not been available to support the family earlier on.

The Committee were informed that young people were excited to help with the service and would be attending Sheffield University to receive training; they would receive accreditation for this. The Portfolio Holder stated that it was an amazing service and commended the team and the outcomes it was already achieving.

Members were informed that a parent panel was in development, along with links into exploitation, increased development of pathways, a 'time out' short break option, a

crash pad for young people who regularly go missing. The Chair questioned if the service would be sustainable in the future. The Team Manager confirmed that capacity would be increased to deal with adverse parental behaviour, which had not been good enough previously.

The Chair thanked Officers and young people for their attendance and presentations.

## **Resolved**

**That the report be noted.**

### **55/19 Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

The Head of Service stated that she would provide an overview of the findings of the Ofsted focused visit to Walsall Children's Services in respect of the MASH and the Initial Response Service in October 2019 and associated recommendations.

The MASH was described as the entry point into Children's Services for concerns or requests for help with social care. A focused visit was completed by Ofsted to Walsall Children's Services on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Inspectors looked at the arrangements for contacts and referrals in to the MASH, thresholds for children in need and child protection, and arrangements for children and families stepping down to Early Help and on to the Initial Response Service for assessment.

There were three recommendations made, as a result of the inspection, this was unusual as there were normally far more recommendations. The timing of the inspection was helpful, as Children's Services had commissioned an independent peer review of the 'front door', which took place at the beginning of September. A number of workshops were completed with managers, social workers and MASH partners in relation to the application of threshold for statutory children's social care in addition to some practice uplift work with frontline staff. Following the completion of this review, a MASH improvement plan was compiled to capture improvements needed and track progress. This had resulted in a number of changes for the MASH, for example, the family safeguarding model, which worked with staff to identify what, should be accepted as referrals. This resulted in a shift in the way work was managed and allowed staff to signpost with confidence; Regular audits of activity were completed to ensure that referrals continued to be safe and consistent.

The Committee were advised that the three recommendations were;

1. The timeliness of early help assessments and interventions

Work was undertaken by the service to ensure that the right early help was offered. This piece of work had been picked up. A Member observed that a common thread was timeliness. The Assistant Director stated that people were not being picked up early enough, potentially due to over screening. It was stressed that it was the expectation that early help was all partners' responsibility and timeliness was important but more support and resources could be provided from Partners to provide early help.



2. The consistency, timeliness and quality of return home interviews and
3. The timely availability of health information in the MASH

A Member asked if Partners had equal responsibility for safeguarding at the MASH. The Head of Service stated that it could be a challenge getting the right health representation at the MASH and there was still work to do to involve health further.

The Assistant Director stated that challenges were discussed with Partners, and it was noted that locally the Council had a good relationship with West Midlands Police. There was currently lots of activity across the CCG and issues would be identified and discussed at a wider level. A Member asked the Assistant Director if she was confident that the right people were involved in MASH. She confirmed that this was the case.

A Member asked if a housing representative was involved in MASH, the Portfolio Holder responded to state that it was difficult to source the correct representation. However, the Authority now had improved contacts with housing colleagues and communication was more effective.

A Member asked if the MASH needed more capacity, the Portfolio Holder stated that the Authority puts Children's Services at the forefront of services to be funded. A further question was raised about delays due to West Midlands Police. The Committee were advised that the Director of Children's Services was progressing issues, which related to the operating principles of West Midlands Police affecting timelessness of data sharing.

The Assistant Directors agreed that Officers were clear on the issues and were working to solve it. In response to a question about the involvement of mental health services in the MASH. Officers confirmed that mental health professionals were not involved in the MASH currently however there was a referral process. Also the Committee were informed that access to GP records was difficult as there were multiple systems which could be complex to navigate.

A Member asked if the service had any evidence that the right cases were investigated and the Head of Service stated that safeguard audits were carried out, along with dip sampling and improved supervision.

The Chair suggested that the Committee invite Partners to a future meeting to challenge them on their response to the Ofsted inspections and recommendations within.

In response to a question from a Member in relation to Committee, the Assistant Director stated that two months into this arrangement and this was now embedding. Teams were being allocated into the right localities. In the future, the volume of work per area would be considered and allocated based on existing data.

## **Resolved**

**That the Committee ;**

- **Noted the positive progress reported by Ofsted in the MASH.**
- **Partners would be invited to a future meeting to be challenged on their contribution to the MASH.**

## **56/19 Areas of Focus**

**The areas of focus 2019/20 was noted.**

## **57/19 Forward Plans**

**The forward plans were noted.**

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.30 p.m. The date of the next meeting would be 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020.

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....

# Walsall Childrens Services Our Covid-19 Story



**Walsall Council**

**PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE**

# Introduction

- Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the way that we work in children's services, with our children, young people and their families and schools.
- The Coronavirus Act 2020, a temporary law, came into force on Wednesday 25 March 2020 and outlined expectations for social work practice and other interactions with children, young people, families and schools including SEND and schools attendance. Subsequent amendments have been made to provide for extra flexibility in some circumstances that apply to Children's Services. These will only be used when absolutely necessary, with senior management oversight.
- We have responded to the changing landscape effectively through an agile approach to remote and home based working (using MS teams and Whatsapp for Business), while maintaining on-sight presence on a rota'd basis to provide essential support for staff, schools, children and families.
- In Walsall we have maintained services in line with statutory requirements and a range of proactive measures have enabled us to maintain high performance on the core elements of our work, this includes support for schools, assessments, responding to children who going missing, social work visits, support to care leavers and foster carer support.
- The Directors of Children's Services are required to have a minimum of weekly meetings with the Department of Education (DfE) and Ofsted on matters pertaining to safeguarding, school attendance, Early Years provision, Education Health and Care plans, SEND provision and other matters. A fortnightly DfE data return is also submitted.
- The Directors for Access & Inclusion, and Social Care have held weekly REACT meetings with DfE, RSC and HMI



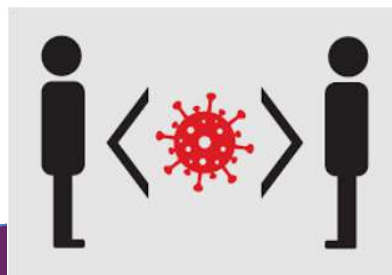
# We have adapted....

Children's Services staff have adapted swiftly and effectively to changes required in the way we work. Early adjustments coupled with a strong commitment to working with our families and schools has enabled us to remain focused on our most vulnerable children.



## Office based where required

Social Care Staff have working in 2 office settings as part of a rota and there are clear measures in place including hand and respiratory hygiene; increased cleaning of the environment; limiting movement and considering the safest means of travel and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)



## Minimising contact

We have changed the way that we maintain contact with children and families, assessing risk to understand whether contact needs to be face to face visits or by virtual means. Capacity for visiting children and young people has remained sufficient throughout the pandemic.



## Virtual Meetings

Meetings are held virtually wherever possible to minimise contact and reduce the risk of any infection being spread between those in attendance. We are now developing hybrid meetings where a face to face meeting is required and fully involve children and their families in critical decisions.



# How it all began.....

In February 2020 Covid-19 began to circulate in Britain.

From the beginning of March 2020 we have seen 22 Confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Walsall schools.

Schools were closed for deep cleans if staff members or children had tested positive for Covid-19.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> 2020 the Government announced that schools would close on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March to all children except those that are vulnerable or children of key workers.

From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the majority of Walsall Children's Services staff began to work from home.

From June 1st there was a wider reopening of schools for specific year groups, Rec Y1, Y2, Y10 and Y12.

Immediate plans were put into place to risk assess all children open across Children's Services.

Walsall Schools affected in the early days included:

- School one – closed for 2 days for deep clean
- School two – closed for 3 days due to staff shortages



# Impact of Covid-19 on demand activity

In the initial weeks of lockdown there was a 37% drop in the number of contacts into Early Help and a 32% drop in the number of referrals into social care.

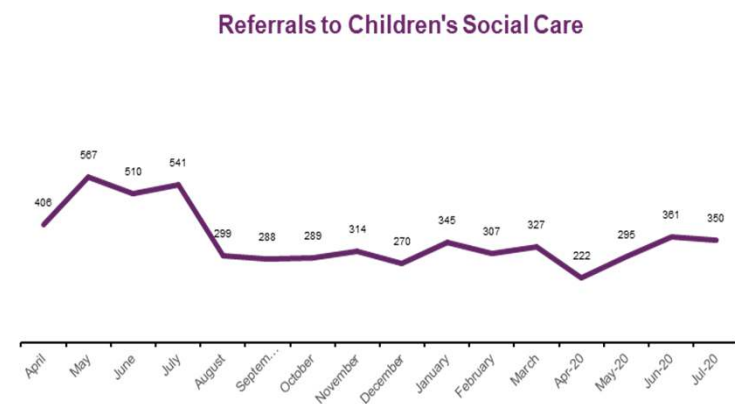
However, by May 2020, the number of referrals in social care had recovered to more usual levels. Between April and July 1,228 referrals were received compared with 1,249 between December and March – a decrease of just 1.7% overall. Early Help contacts remained low in May but had recovered to more usual levels by June.

We have seen a change in who is making referrals – between January and March 33% of referrals came from the Police. This has increased to 45% between April and June and was 47% in June. Prior to Covid-19 schools were our biggest referrers, however, there have been very few referrals from schools during lockdown.

The reasons that children are being referred has changed. The top seven reasons for referral remain the same but the percentage of referrals that feature domestic violence, neglect, drug use and alcohol misuse have increased, whereas the percentage of contacts that feature emotional abuse, physical abuse and mental health issues have decreased.

Due to changes in policing and the effective closure of the criminal courts, the numbers of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time has reduced by 66% (March to August 2020).

Contacts Leading to Referral			
Presenting need	Jan 20 – March 20	April 20 – June 20	Difference
Domestic Violence	65.8%	74.2%	+8.4% pts
Emotional Abuse	72.5%	65.8%	-6.7% pts
Neglect	37.6%	44.4%	+6.8% pts
Physical Abuse	38.1%	31.6%	-6.5% pts
Mental Health	21.7%	16.7%	-5.0% pts
Drug Use	15.7%	21.0%	+5.3% pts
Alcohol Misuse	14.5%	21.3%	+6.8% pts



# We understood the risks for our children

Within **two-weeks** of lockdown beginning we had reviewed and RAG rated all of the children that were open to social care, EHCP team and early help to understand the levels of risk associated with each of them. Individual visiting and contact plans were developed and these were reviewed by managers.

Children who were assessed as being at high risk, continued to receive face to face visits where possible and have been contacted most frequently throughout the pandemic. The percentage of visits conducted face to face has been increasing since lockdown restrictions began to ease.

We have maintained regular contact with all children in line with their plan and were able to share our risk-rating with partners and colleagues which enabled support to be tailored and carers were not overloaded.

Risk of reoffending - Young people assessed as high risk of re-offending received a home visit each week as per their court order or police disposal. All young people open to the Youth Justice Service received a minimum of weekly interventions via video technology.

90% of children are contacted by their social worker at least once every four weeks

Face to face visits

April – 25%  
August 65%

## Risk Levels



- 10% of children in need
- 40% of children subject of a Child Protection Plan
- 7% of children in care



- 40% of children in need
- 52% of children subject of a Child Protection Plan
- 13% of children in care



- 50% of children in need
- 8% of children subject of a Child Protection Plan
- 80% of children in care

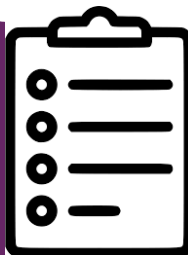




# Adapting Our Practice

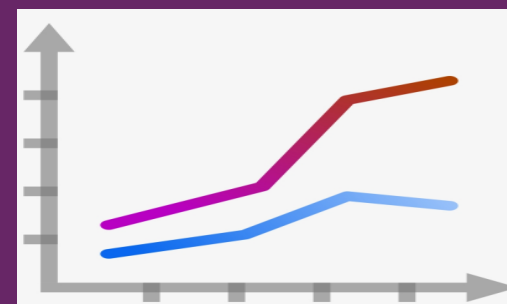
To be able to continue to assess children's needs and provide appropriate help and protection Children's Social Care Services have adapted and worked differently

Specific Covid-19 Practice Guidance has been developed to support professional decision-making and RAG rating risk assessment. This has been updated as lockdown restrictions have eased. This included:



- Key things to consider in assessing the impact of lockdown for families
- A Home Visit Risk Assessment tool
- Guidance on when physical visits were necessary and how to conduct these safely, including the use and disposal of PPE
- Good practice in undertaking virtual visits
- Holding virtual meetings
- Case recording so we can tell each child's story of professional involvement during Covid-19

A new system for using performance data has been launched during Covid-19, and key reporting tools have been developed to offer oversight of RAG ratings, assessments, visits and the frequency of contact with children and families.



Daily reports on staff attendance and those shielding have also been produced to understand our capacity alongside need.



# Staff Wellbeing

The welfare of our staff is of paramount importance. Our staff have been amazing in prioritising children, families and carers, and offering them help and support, but this has been difficult for them too. Our approach has centred on having shared guidance and policies, but also recognising individual support needs and agile working. Throughout the pandemic a range of approaches have been used to support staff and keep them safe.

## Checking In

All teams regularly hold check-in meetings, huddles and virtual breakfasts or lunches to maintain team relationships and co-working, and to be there for one another

## Feedback

Staff report that they feel listened to and supported, especially in their teams and with their colleagues. They know how to access support, including the Corporate offer

## Staff Briefings

Senior Managers have held regular virtual meetings for all Children's Social Care staff, including specific Team Manager sessions and Health Check / Feedback sessions

## Communication

Staff receive a weekly briefing with service changes, key updates, resources, and good news stories so communication all comes from one place where possible



# Family Safeguarding

Children's Social Care were due to launch it's new Family Safeguarding model with support form the DfE funded Stronger Families Safer Children Programme. The whole programme was paused in late March due to the pandemic.

After a period of uncertainty, a new provisional date for launching this model was agreed for September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Despite the pandemic and all the challenges this has created, this model has been successfully launched on 1<sup>st</sup> September across the Safeguarding and Family Support (now Family Safeguarding) Service. All the key components are now in place, and Social Workers and other professionals are starting to implement this new way of working.

10 Specialist Adult Practitioners have been recruited and started with the Family Safeguarding Service ready for the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

The pandemic has meant all training has had to be completed virtually, with smaller groups. Excluding new starters in August, over 90% of staff in the Family Safeguarding Teams have been trained in the model

All the Family Safeguarding Teams have been trained in Motivational Interviewing as the core practice method used in the model.



# Working with Children and Young People

Children's Social Care staff have worked tirelessly to engage children and young people throughout the pandemic, using many different creative approaches. Feedback has been this way of working requires more preparation, especially speaking to children and young people before meetings, but has enabled Social Workers and other professionals to keep their wishes and feelings at the heart of everything we do.

## MY 2020 COVID-19 TIME CAPSULE

### Using technology

Children and young people are often comfortable using technology, and many have responded well to visits using video calls, and done through tablets, phones and laptops.

Staff have used a variety of approaches such as playing games over the internet, drawing on the computer, putting tools to understand children's wishes on the screen, during these virtual visits.

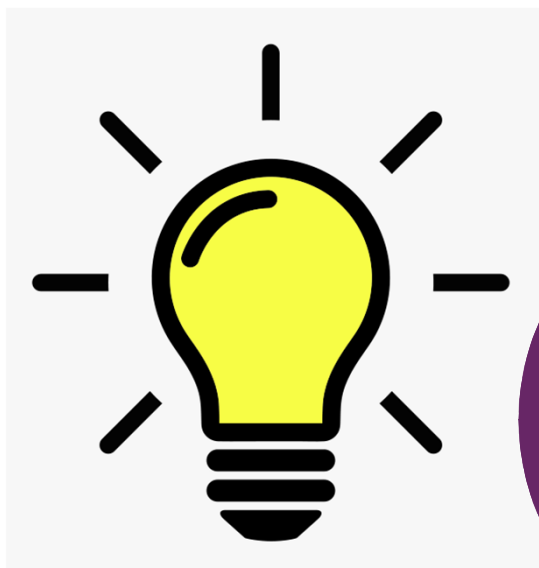
### Direct work – creative approaches have included:

- My Covid time capsules to help children tell their story of the pandemic
- Reading story books to children, and creating their own cartoon strips and stories
- Child friendly safety plans – especially online safety
- Going to socially distant walks with children, playing games outdoors where they can talk openly
- Using messaging games and talking via messaging again so children and young people can talk openly
- Adapting communication for disabled children

At the height of the pandemic Walsall like almost all Local Authorities moved to virtual family time. Feedback from children, young people and families was sought, and was very positive about the support they received from the Family Time Service at such a difficult time.



# Lessons Learned



We have learned a lot across the pandemic, and there are many things that we will continue to do.

Knowing ourselves – we have been able to meet the challenges of the pandemic because we have strong performance and data tracking processes and have audited our practice to understand strengths and address challenges in a responsive and timely way.

Microsoft Teams – this will help save time in travel. Especially where there is a time pressure such as professional Strategy Discussions where there are concerns about significant harm to a child.

Virtual visits and meetings  
We will always visit children and young people in person in line with our statutory responsibilities, but where it is in a child's interests (with some children in care for example) we will hold some meetings virtually and make video calls to encourage their participation.

The culture of staff wellbeing and feedback has been fundamental to our response to Covid, and our staff want this continue to be a focus – and it is.

Online training can be done really effectively, and a range of methods and learning approaches will be used to offer development opportunities to staff.



## Carrying On

The pandemic has created lots of challenges, but we are committed to providing as full a service as possible and safe for children, families, carers and staff.

Face-to-face family time has resumed for some families where it is safe to do so and in the children's best interests, with this being risk assessed for every child and family, and every family time session.

All Social Work Assessments once-again involve a face-to-face contact, and a visit to the family home

The Transitions and Leaving Care Service Building is reopening to have this hub open for Care Leavers to drop in.

Some Child Protection Conferences are now being held as physical meetings, and using a combination of a physical meeting which parents and the child where appropriate may attend, and video links or telephone calls

Some key meetings are now happening face-to-face where it is safe to do so, and there is a need such as where sensitive information is being discussed

Staff supervision is now happening in person where possible using social distancing, supported by virtual methods as needed

Recruitment activity has continued with over 50 appointments in Children's Social Care, including 34 newly qualified ASYE Social Worker being appointed and starting with WMBC in August and September

Walsall has continued to take Social Work students and offer a positive and safe learning experience can be provided. This has included supporting students whose placements had to be ended elsewhere because of lockdown to successfully complete Social Work qualifications. There are currently 7 students on placement with plans for 23 across the year.



# Impact of Covid-19 on demand activity

Our numbers of children in care have increased over the Covid-19 period. While some of this activity has been expected and is part of business as usual, some of the increase is due to reduced court activity:



- Children have remained on interim care orders for longer.
- Court applications for revocation of care orders have not been prioritised.
- Fewer children have secured adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders.
- Family courts have had to adjust to remote hearings with urgent matters prioritised.
- Contested final hearings which required parents to give evidence could not take place virtually. Therefore a number of final hearings were delayed. These are now being prioritised and are taking place via hybrid hearings (with one or more of the participants attending court to give their evidence).
- Although the Youth Criminal Court has now been re-established on a limited basis, there remains a significant backlog of young people at different points in the system that are yet to receive an outcome





# Impact of Covid-19 on demand activity

Although the overall numbers of children coming in care have increased, there has been some decrease in the numbers of children coming into care. The reasons for are being analysed as the impact of Covid-19 continues to be felt, although whilst this is in part due to the effects of the pandemic, it also is due the efforts to provide effective help and support for families across the crisis.

	1st March - 31st August	
	2019	2020
Children coming into care	126	108
Subject to a care order	58	51
Subject to a SGO	8	18
Subject to an adoption order	10	1
Returned home	20	9

Children in Care Review meetings have been held virtually throughout the pandemic. This has been a real positive, especially for children living further away, and actually a number of children and young people report preferring this approach, with high rates of participation.

- Care Plans for children in care have continued to be progressed throughout the pandemic to ensure that their needs are met.
- There has been an increase in SGOs – orders where children live with a Special Guardian, often in their family or extended networks.
- Although there have been challenges, 9 children have returned home between March and August of this year, and as lockdown has ended more plans for children to safely return to their families are being taken forwards.





# Innovative approaches to support

The constraints of lockdown have meant that we have often had to find innovative approaches to maintaining contact with some of our most vulnerable young people.

Socially distanced walks, combining contact with the young person's daily exercise and providing privacy for difficult conversations



Support for care leavers and vulnerable families including delivering shopping, nappies, formula and collecting prescriptions



Delivering resources and intervention activities to young people and families in their homes so workers can support completion via video technology



Emotional and well-being support, combined with practical help such as virtual cooking sessions and how to sessions on assembling flat-packed furniture



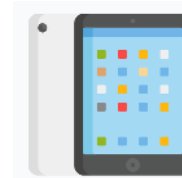
# Work of the Virtual School and Distribution of Laptops

The Virtual School for looked after children:

- Worked with social workers to ensure children and young people were supported to continue to access education
- Completed a risk assessment for every young person with an EHC plan
- Provided a named key worker for every young person
- Regularly contacted parents/carers and schools for those not attending schools to ensure access to learning
- Provided careers advice to students about GCSE and A level results
- Delivered face to face and online transition support to children moving to new schools

The government arranged for laptops and tablets to be provided for vulnerable children so that they could continue to access education if they were not able to attend school.

Children's services worked closely with ICT to configure, secure and deliver the kit to families, also providing 4g dongles where required to enable the children and young people to access the internet.



**844  
Laptops &  
141 4g  
routers**

for children  
aged 8-18  
who have a  
social  
worker

**31  
laptops &  
36 4g  
routers**

for  
children  
care  
leavers

**400 iPads**  
for  
children  
aged 3-7  
with a  
disability

**250  
tablets**  
for  
children  
under  
Early Help

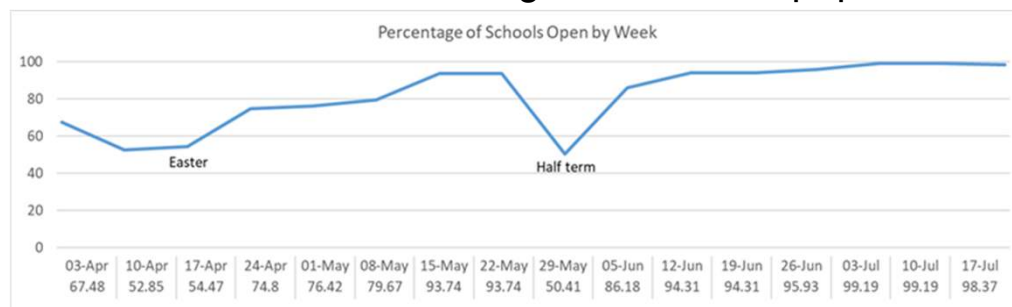


# We supported schools.....

We worked closely with schools to ensure that they could continue to remain open for vulnerable pupils and pupils whose parents were key workers, supporting and co-ordinating a 'hub resilience model' so that if a school had to close, then children could attend other schools within the hub.

Regular, virtual 'Teachmeet' sessions were held with schools to ensure that communication remained open and best practice could be shared.

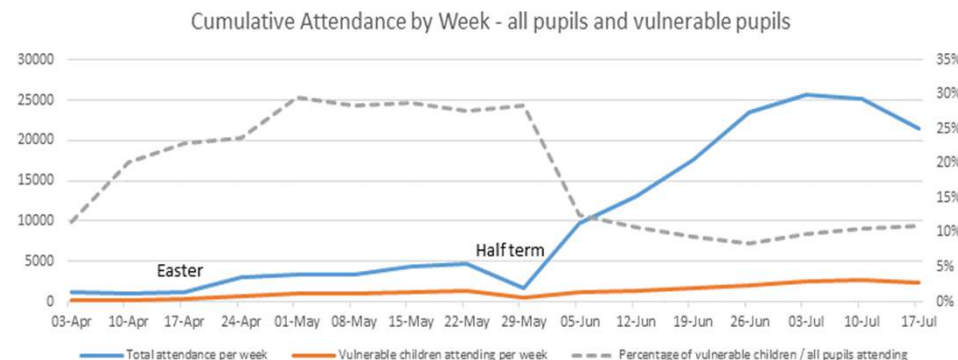
Daily returns were obtained from schools to monitor attendance and also confirm that schools were undertaking safe and well checks for pupils, particularly those who were most vulnerable. This was used to inform the RAG rating of vulnerable pupils.



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 –  
**6813 (12.8%) children attended school**

- Reception – 1134 (29.7%)
- Year 1 – 1133 (29.3%)
- Year 6 – 1271 (32.7%)
- Year 10 – 301 (8.5%)
- Year 12 – 66 (3.6%)

Of the total number of pupils attending school between April and July in Walsall, **18%** were vulnerable children



# We supported children with an EHCP

We have continued to talk to parents and carers about how their child's assessment or plan may be affected by Covid-19. We have communicated with parents individually (via phone and letter/email) to discuss potential and known delays in the EHC process due to COVID-19. All decisions are being made with parents/carers to reduce concern.

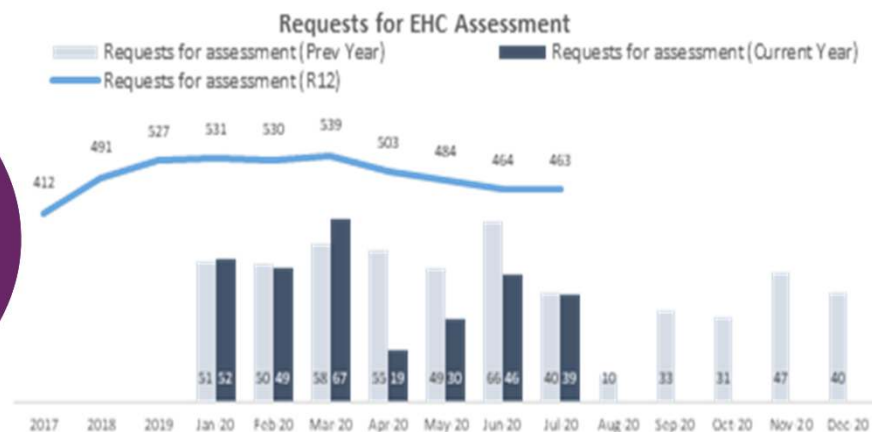
Where children have a plan in place, schools have undertaken risk assessments in partnership with parents to discuss whether it is better for the child to remain at home or attend school and identify what additional support may be required. Schools have been making 'Safe and Well' calls to parents at least once a week.

In addition to our work with schools, a help line was established for parents and carers of children with SEN who were struggling to cope, who had concerns or who were anxious about their children returning to school.

EHC requests have continued to be supported remotely and the number has reduced each month during Covid from 539 (March) to 463 (July). It is expected to increase as pupils return to school in September.

**81% of children with an EHCP were risk assessed as being better supported at home**

**91% of children with an EHCP were receiving safe and well checks at least once a week**



## Early Help have proactively worked with partners to prevent additional demand on children's social care .....

- Worked proactively with partners to support children and young people to prevent additional demand on children's social care, including
- Identifying with schools those vulnerable children and young people who required additional support over the summer period.
- Our partners provided additional targeted support to children and families around domestic abuse, trauma, health & wellbeing, finance
- Social workers to ensure children and young people were supported to continue to access education
- Completed a risk assessment for every young person with an EHC plan
- Provided a named key worker for every young person
- Regularly contacted parents/carers and schools for those not attending schools to ensure access to learning
- Secured 250 laptops and tablets in partnership with Virtual schools and police for children and young people being supported by Early Help so that they could continue to access education if they were not able to attend school.
- Worked closely with ICT to configure, secure and deliver the kit to families, also providing 4g dongles where required to enable the children and young people to access the internet

**Completed a risk assessment for every young person with an EHC plan**

**Facilitated 5 webinars for partners to help support children and young people around domestic abuse and trauma**

**Held 36 regular check in's with staff to tighten communication and support networks**

**Delivered '8 Restorative Training' workshops to schools and partners, with over 300 attendees**

**Our internal teams co ordinated and kept in touch with over 700 children and young people**



# Early help have supported children, young people parents and carer's .....

- Produced 'top tips' for parents around understanding your child, emotional wellbeing, how to have fun
- Delivered a wide range of on line summer activities for children and young people
- Held virtual coffee morning for parents and carers with children who have additional needs, providing opportunities for support and to share information
- Held small group sessions to support emotional health and reduce anxiety
- Held weekly virtual group sessions for children and young people
- Delivered borough wide 'Live Music Project' an opportunity for children
- Provided careers advice to students about GCSE and A level results
- Delivered face to face and online transition support to children moving to new schools
- Held weekly locality based virtual 'Time to Talk' workgroups for schools and partners to share concerns, proactive approaches, good practice

We have facilitated 21 'meet and greet' sessions for all partners to share what services, help and support is available for both practitioners, children, young people and their families during this time

Delivered over 50 on line parenting support interactive sessions with a follow up Q&A session to further support parents/carers. All resources continue to be available both on line and converted to picture format for those without internet access.

Continued to deliver face to face, on line support to over 800 children and young people open to Early Help



# Home to School transport supported children and families by .....

## Home to School transport

- Continued to transport vulnerable pupils throughout the pandemic
- 46 different educational establishments.
- Additional resources provided to deliver welfare packs, PPE and associated support.
- Worked with PHW to publish guidelines to operators
- Attended 2 x zoom sessions with FACE.
- Team meet daily for updates
- Coordinated the return to school programme for H2S transport
- Approx 700 pupils to return in September
- Facilitated webinar for Operators with PHW for return to school based on government guidelines

2803 pupils  
were supported  
during the  
period.

NHS staff were  
supported as part of  
a joint venture and  
coordinated through  
the H2S school  
transport team  
approximately 80  
staff.

Around 700  
pupils will be  
supported to  
return to school  
in September





# Working Together

Regular communication and shared working between Children's Social Care, Education and Early Help was also key:

- Information was shared in a safe and appropriate way to make sure RAG ratings of vulnerable children in different service areas were considered alongside each other and needs and risks identified.
- A tracker was kept and there was daily updating of children with Children's Social Care involvement attending education and Social Workers and Schools worked together to encourage attendance of vulnerable pupils
- A number of schools worked creatively with the Children With Disabilities Team to adapt support for disabled children and their families during lockdown.
- Professionals including Social Worker, Early Help Practitioners, Teachers, Health Visitors and Midwives and others have worked together to coordinate visits and communication to make sure that the professional network has regular contact with children and families, but also so this didn't become too much.
- Across the Safeguarding Partnership weekly newsletters have been sent out with helpful guidance, tools and information to support the partnership and effective partnership working.
- Weekly meetings have taken place with key partnership safeguarding leads to discuss any emerging challenges or issues that have arisen as a result of Covid-19.



# Moving forward into reset.....

## **Review of Staff who have been shielding**

Risk assessments and work plans will include the planned return to work of team members who are no longer required to shield, whilst shielding staff will continue to work remotely in line with existing arrangements

## **Increasing Face to Face contact**

We have begun to increase face to face contacts with children and families, while maintaining elements of virtual practice that have been beneficial to both staff and parents and carers where this is appropriate

## **Developed a Reset Framework for Schools**

We have developed a reset framework with schools with a focus on mental health and emotional resilience as they support pupils to re-enter education



## Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2020/21

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	15 <sup>th</sup> September	10 <sup>th</sup> November	14 <sup>th</sup> January	18 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Recruitment and retention of social workers</b>				
<b>Exploitation (partnership update)</b>				
<b>Regional Adoption Agency</b>				
<b>Family Safeguarding Model</b>				
<b>FDAC</b>				
<b>Evaluation of summer activity programme</b>				
<b>Right for Children transformation programme</b>				
<b>Performance item</b>				
<b>Youth Justice Working Group report</b>				



**Walsall** Council

## **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Council House,  
Lichfield Street,  
Walsall, WS1 1TW**  
[www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk)

**3 August 2020**

## FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan sets out decisions that are termed as “key decisions” at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken by the Executive (Cabinet). Also included on the plan are other decisions to be taken by the Cabinet (“non-key decisions”). Preparation of the forward plan helps the Council to programme its work. The purpose of the forward plan is to give plenty of notice and an opportunity for consultation on the issues to be discussed. The plan is updated each month with the period of the plan being rolled forward by one month and republished. Copies of the plan can be obtained from Democratic Services, Walsall MBC, Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW [helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk) and can also be accessed from the Council's website at [www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk). The Cabinet is allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the forward plan, however, a notice will be included on the agenda for the relevant Cabinet meeting which explains the reasons why.

Please note that the decision dates are indicative and are subject to change. Please contact the above addressee if you wish to check the date for a particular item.

Cabinet responsibilities are as follows

- Leader of the Council – Councillor Bird
- Deputy Leader and Regeneration – Councillor Andrew
- Adult social care – Councillor Martin
- Children’s – Councillor Wilson
- Clean and green – Councillor Butler
- Community, leisure and culture – Councillor Perry
- Education and skills – Councillor Towe
- Health and wellbeing – Councillor Craddock
- Personnel and business support – Councillor Chattha

The Cabinet agenda and reports are available for inspection by the public 7 days prior to the meeting of the Cabinet on the Council's website. Background papers are listed on each report submitted to the Cabinet and members of the public are entitled to see these documents unless they are confidential. The report also contains the name and telephone number of a contact officer. These details can also be found in the forward plan.

Meetings of the Cabinet are open to the public. Occasionally there are items included on the agenda which are confidential and for those items the public will be asked to leave the meeting. The forward plan will show where this is intended and the reason why the reports are confidential. Enquiries regarding these reasons should be directed to Democratic Services ([helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk)).

“Key decisions” are those decisions which have a significant effect within the community or which involve considerable expenditure or savings. With regard to key decisions the Council’s Constitution states:

- (1) A key decision is:
  - (i) any decision in relation to an executive function which results in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant, having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates or
  - (ii) any decision that is likely to have significant impact on two or more wards within the borough.
- (2) The threshold for “significant” expenditure/savings is £250,000.
- (3) A decision taker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

**Dates of meetings – to be confirmed**

## FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2020 (3.8.20)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside the Council)	Decision maker	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Contact Member (All Members can be written to at Civic Centre, Walsall)	Date item to be considered
3/20 (6.1.20)	<b>Strategic development at Moxley Road, Darlaston Private session:</b> Report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person	Cabinet  (Key decision)	Joanne Nugent 01922 654752 <a href="mailto:joanne.nugent@walsall.gov.uk">joanne.nugent@walsall.gov.uk</a> Joel Maybury 01922 654748	Internal	Councillor Andrew	September 2020
8/20 (3.2.20)	<b>Black Country Transport Team Collaboration Agreement:</b> To approve the agreement to facilitate the delivery of a strategic transportation function across the four Black Country local authorities	Cabinet  (Non key decision)	Matt Crowton 01922 654358 <a href="mailto:matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk">matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal	Councillor Andrew	September 2020
27/19 (8.7.9)	<b>A34 Walsall to Birmingham SPRINT (Bus Rapid Transit) scheme:</b> To approve the sprint scheme	Cabinet  (Key decision)	Matt Crowton 01922 654358 <a href="mailto:matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk">matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal	Councillor Andrew	September 2020
68/19 (2.12.19)	<b>West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme:</b> To approve a plan to improve bus travel in the A34 Walsall to Birmingham corridor through delivery of a new SPRINT service.	Cabinet  (Key decision)	Matt Crowton 01922 654358 <a href="mailto:matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk">matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal	Councillor Andrew	September 2020
43/18 (8.10.18)	<b>Lighting Invest to Save:</b> To consider proposals for a major investment in the highway lighting infrastructure by replacing all existing lighting with energy efficient LED lighting	Cabinet  (Key decision)	Paul Leighton 07831 120871 <a href="mailto:paul.leighton@walsall.gov.uk">paul.leighton@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Public, Walsall Public Lighting Ltd., industry companies, internal	Councillor Andrew	September 2020

Page 38 of 46

27/20 (3.8.90)	<b>Carbon neutral Council:</b> To consider measures through which the Council can become carbon neutral, in line with the Council resolution of 16 September 2020	Cabinet  (Non key decision)	Kaye Davies 07908 161384 <a href="mailto:kaye.davies@walsall.gov.uk">kaye.davies@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal	Councillor Bird	October 2020
28/20 (3.8.90)	<b>Extension of the Impact (Youth Employment Initiative) Programme:</b> To approve acceptance of the offer of additional EU funding to continue and extend the programme through to July 2023 delegating authority to negotiate and enter into the necessary agreements or contracts.	Cabinet  (Key decision)	Mark Lavender 07951 6230333 <a href="mailto:mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk">mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal	Councillor Andrew	October 2020
29/20 (3.8.20)	<b>Inclusive Economic Growth Programme:</b> To review the performance, content and outcomes achieved so far through the programme in support of its corporate plan and approving its continuation through to 2023 utilising existing resources to support the continued development of Walsall's economy and its people.	Cabinet  (Key decision)	Mark Lavender 07951 6230333 <a href="mailto:mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk">mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal	Councillor Andrew	October 2020
30/20 (3.8.20)	<b>Town Deal bids:</b> To approve the submission of bids for both Walsall and Bloxwich towns and the eligible surrounding areas, as defined by Government and delegating authority to negotiate and enter into the necessary agreements and contracts	Cabinet  (Key decision)	Mark Lavender 07951 6230333 <a href="mailto:mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk">mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal	Councillor Andrew	October 2020
31/20 (3.8.20)	<b>Mainstream Schools Funding Formula:</b> To approve the school funding formula, as agreed by Schools Forum, to be used for the allocation of funding mainstream schools for 2021/22	Cabinet  (Key decision)	Mohammed Irfan 01922 652330 <a href="mailto:mohammed.irfan@walsall.gov.uk">mohammed.irfan@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Schools Forum	Councillor Towe	October 2020

26/20 (3.8.20)	<b>Information Governance Framework policy:</b> To approve the framework policy which has been updated throughout the Covid-19 lockdown to include the changes required for mobile working alongside the Council's technology changes.	Cabinet  (Key decision)	Paul Withers <a href="mailto:paul.withers@walsall.gov.uk">paul.withers@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal	Councillor Chattha	October 2020
32/20 (3.8.20)	<b>Treasury Management mid-year position statement:</b> To note and forward to Council the mid-year position statement for treasury management activities 2020/21, including prudential and local indicators	Cabinet  (Non key decision)	Richard Walley 07500 819796 <a href="mailto:richard.walley@walsall.gov.uk">richard.walley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal	Councillor Bird	December 2020



# **BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**

## **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Published up to October 2020 (for publication 09/06/2020)**

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
03/02/2020	Daisy Bank SI  Change Request	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growing Places Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the Growing Places Fund, funded elements of the Daisy Bank Site Investigation project.	Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence <a href="mailto:Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>	Wolverhampton City Council	(01/04/2020 meeting postponed)  24/06/2020
03/02/2020	Wolverhampton Environment Centre SI  Change Request	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growing Places (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the Growing Places Fund, funded elements of the Wolverhampton Environment Centre Site Investigation project.	Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence <a href="mailto:Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>	Wolverhampton City Council	(01/04/2020 meeting postponed)  24/06/2020
02/03/2020	Woods Lane Phase 2  Change Request	Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Vistry Partnerships Limited to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the Woods Lane Phase 2 Project with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.  Note that this change request relates to a change of company name and registered office address.	Papers TBC – Alison Knight <a href="mailto:Alison.Knight@sandwell.gov.uk">Alison.Knight@sandwell.gov.uk</a>	Sandwell Council	(01/04/2020 meeting postponed)  24/06/2020

# BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

## FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

**Published up to October 2020 (for publication 09/06/2020)**

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02/03/2020	BC LEP Assurance Framework –  Revised Appendix 25	Approval of the revised Black Country LEP Assurance Framework Change Control and Delegated Authority governance, as detailed in the attachment of the report (Appendix 25).	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson <a href="mailto:simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk">simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Walsall Council	24/06/2020
02/03/2020	Iron Park Moxley  <b>PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)</b>	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Parkhill Estates Ltd to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Iron Park Moxley Project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson <a href="mailto:simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk">simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Walsall Council	24/06/2020
02/03/2020	Phoenix 10  Change Request  <b>PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)</b>	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend an Internal Agreement with Walsall Council to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Phoenix 10 Project.  Note: the change request relates to the reduction of LPIF grant award.  Approve that future business rates generated from Phoenix 10 can be utilised by Walsall Council to recover	Papers TBC - Simon Neilson <a href="mailto:Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk">Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Walsall Council	24/06/2020

# BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

## FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

**Published up to October 2020 (for publication 09/06/2020)**

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
		their borrowing costs (capital payments plus interest) associated with funding in line with the financial model.			
02/03/2020	Changes to the Local Growth Fund Programme	Approval of the current position of the Growth Deal Projects, reflecting all changes to the Programme (Funding and Outputs) throughout the year and to maximise the 2019/2020 Growth Deal allocation expenditure for various changes, as detailed in Attachment 1 of the report.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson <a href="mailto:simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk">simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Walsall Council	24/06/2020
06/04/2020	City Learning Quarter Site Investigation  Change Request  <b>PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)</b>	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the City Learning Quarter Site Investigation project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.  Note that this additional funding request relates to the City of Wolverhampton Technical Centre (Bilston Campus) and is to be underwritten by Wolverhampton City Council. Any Site Investigation funding is considered revenue and is subject to standard clawback conditions, until such time as: an asset/main scheme is delivered on site, which is required to be evidenced by either a built asset, or by a fully funded approved Business Case in support of the main scheme.	Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence <a href="mailto:Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>	Wolverhampton City Council	24/06/2020

# **BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**

## **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Published up to October 2020 (for publication 09/06/2020)**

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
06/04/2020	Sandwell Housing Gap Funding - Phase 1  <b>PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)</b>	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Sandwell Housing Gap Funding - Phase 1 Project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Alison Knight <a href="mailto:alison.knight@sandwell.gov.uk">alison.knight@sandwell.gov.uk</a>	Sandwell Council	24/06/2020
06/04/2020	WM5G Project  Black Country LEP Development Contribution  <b>PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)</b>	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Black Country Growing Places Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with WM5G Ltd to deliver the Growing Places Fund (GPF) funded elements of the WM5G Project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson <a href="mailto:simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk">simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Walsall Council	24/06/2020
06/04/2020	Boxpool  <b>PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A)</b>	Approval for the Walsall Council (being the Local Authority area in which the applicant falls geographically) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Darlaston Builders Merchants to deliver the Black Country Enterprise Zone (BC EZ) funded elements of the Boxpool project – with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson <a href="mailto:simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk">simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Walsall Council	24/06/2020

# BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

## FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

**Published up to October 2020 (for publication 09/06/2020)**

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
	<b>of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)</b>	Approve that future business rates generated from Boxpool can be utilised by Walsall Council to recover their borrowing costs (capital payments plus interest) associated with funding in line with the financial model.			
06/04/2020	Fab Kit – Fab Lab  Change Request	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Sandwell College to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Fab Kit – Fab Lab project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Alison Knight <a href="mailto:alison.knight@sandwell.gov.uk">alison.knight@sandwell.gov.uk</a>	Sandwell Council	24/06/2020
11/05/2020	Growth Hub  Grant Funding Agreement Approval 2020/21	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Black Country Growth Hub (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement, with the Black Country Consortium Ltd, to deliver the Black Country Growth Hub Funding for 2020/21.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson <a href="mailto:simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk">simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Walsall Council	24/06/2020
11/05/2020	M6 Junction 10  Change Request  <b>PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A)</b>	Approval for the changes to the M6 Junction 10 project grant profile.  Note the progress update for the M6 Junction 10 project and that this change request relates to the spend profile.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson <a href="mailto:simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk">simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Walsall Council	24/06/2020

# **BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**

## **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Published up to October 2020 (for publication 09/06/2020)**

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
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	<b>of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)</b>				
11/05/2020	Sandwell Aquatic Centre Infrastructure Phase 1  <b>PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)</b>	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Sandwell Aquatic Centre Infrastructure Phase 1 project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Alison Knight <a href="mailto:alison.knight@sandwell.gov.uk">alison.knight@sandwell.gov.uk</a>	Sandwell Council	29/07/2020
08/06/2020	Narrowboat way Site Investigation  Change Request	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Blackacres Ltd to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Narrowboat Way Site Investigation Project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Helen Martin <a href="mailto:helen.martin@dudley.gov.uk">helen.martin@dudley.gov.uk</a>	Dudley Council	29/07/2020