



Walsall Council

Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on: **Tuesday 8 March 2022 at 6.00 p.m.**

Meeting at: Walsall Council House.

Public access to meeting via: <https://youtu.be/eFL4j1O8oS4>

MEMBERSHIP:

Chair: Councillor A. Hicken
Vice Chair: Councillor F. Mazhar
Councillor H. Bashir
Councillor G. Flint
Councillor A. Hussain
Councillor P. Kaur
Councillor K. Murphy
Councillor A. Nawaz
Councillor A. Nazir
Councillor L. Rattigan
Councillor C. Statham

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Councillor T. Wilson.

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AGENDA

1.	Apologies To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee.	
2.	Substitutions To receive notice of any substitutions for a Member of the Committee for the duration of the meeting.	
3.	Declarations of interest and party whip To receive declarations of interest or the party whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda.	
4.	Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) 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.	Minutes of the previous meeting To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting that took place on 31 January 2022.	<u>Enclosed</u>
<u>Scrutiny</u>		
6.	Family Safeguarding: progress in eighteen months To provide an update on the implementation of family Safeguarding Model in Walsall.	<u>Enclosed</u>
7.	Right for Children Transformation programme The report provides an overview and assurance of the work done with partners through the development of development of a Walsall Children and Young People Strategic Alliance.	<u>Enclosed</u>
8.	Areas of Focus To review the Committees Work Programme and the Forward Plans for Walsall Council and the Black Country Executive Committee.	<u>Enclosed</u>
<u>Overview</u>		
9.	CAMHS briefing note. To provide a response to questions raised at the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12 th October 2021.	<u>Enclosed</u>
10.	Date of next meeting To note that the date of the next meeting will be 13 th April 2022.	

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:

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>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.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Regulations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>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:</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
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	<p>Any tenancy where (to a member's knowledge):</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority;</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:</p> <p>(a) that body (to a member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either:</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(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.</p>

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.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALSALL COUNCIL HOUSE

Monday 31 January 2022 at 6.00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Councillor A. Hicken (Chair)
Councillor H. Bashir
Councillor P. Kaur
Councillor K. Murphy
Councillor A. Nawaz
Councillor L. Rattigan
Councillor K. Sears
Councillor C. Statham

Portfolio Holder

Councillor T. Wilson

Officers

Colleen Male	- Director, Children's Social Work
Tony Meadows	- Interim Director, Commissioning, Procurement and Contract Management.
Zoe Morgan	- Head of Support and Protection
Phil Rutherford	- Strategic Lead for Youth Justice Services
Nikki Gough	- Democratic Services Officer

- 29/21 **Apologies**
- Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Flint, A. Hussain and Mazhar for the duration of this meeting.
- 30/21 **Substitutions**
- Councillor Sears substituted on behalf of Councillor Flint for the duration of the meeting.
- 31/21 **Declarations of Interest and party whip**
- There were no declarations of interest for the duration of the meeting
- 32/21 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**
- There were no items to be considered in private session.
- 33/21 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
- The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 November 2021 were considered by the Committee.
- Resolved**
- The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 November 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.**
- 34/21 **Childrens and Adults Transition**
- The Head of Support and Protection presented the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). The Committee were advised that 'transition' was the term used to describe the period of change from childhood to adolescence and into adulthood. As part of transition, key areas that young people were supported in were education, independent living, relationships/friends, and health and wellbeing.
- A series of focus groups had been held to gather information on the best way to support young people transitioning, and to develop pathways to enable this to happen. The main cohorts of young people who were identified as needing support were children in the care of the Local Authority, children with a disability or special need, and children who were open to social care.
- A toolkit had been developed to guide practitioners through this process and was currently in draft form. The toolkit had been broken down into stages to act as a trigger point for services to plan for the young person transitioning. The timescales for the completion of the toolkit were described to the Committee.

The Interim Director, Commissioning, Procurement and Contract Management informed the Committee that the transition arrangements were part of the adult social care transformation plan. Those services offered would be reviewed to ensure that they best met the needs of young people.

The Portfolio Holder acknowledged the concerns previously raised in relation to young people transitioning to adult services and thanked Officers for their work to improve this process.

A Member questioned how much work was done with local Housing Associations, The Interim Director described the work which had commenced to influence the support and housing need in the future and suggested that this could be set as a strategic aim. It was noted that Housing Associations were receptive to this work.

Officers were asked by a Member of the Committee, how feedback from focus groups would be translated into the toolkit/plans. The Head of Support and Protection stated that the focus groups were made up of multi-agency partners. The toolkit would draw out the actions from the focus groups to make it user friendly for practitioners – once embedded it would continue to evolve.

A Member asked for clarification that young people's opinion was sought and expressed concern that there should be a contact point for families to avoid confusion. Officers confirmed that young people had been involved in the development of the toolkit and guidance. Members stressed that there should be an accountable officer to enable effective communication from Elected Members. The Head of Support and Protection stated that the toolkit would be embedded into the work of children's and adults as part of service delivery, and as such would be subject to governance arrangements. This may depend on the issue identified, it was stressed by a Member that it should be clear to families and Members who they should contact. The Interim Director stated that the Authority would coordinate any issues through the Walsall Together Partnership, in addition the Portfolio Holder stated that this feedback would be considered and included in the work being done.

A Member questioned if this toolkit was recognised at other Authorities, in consideration of those individuals accessing cross border services to avoid young people 'slipping through the net'. Officers explained that although the toolkit was an internal document it did recognise cross border working and liaison with other authorities would take place.

Resolved

1. That progress and achievements to be endorsed and proposals moving forward to be supported.

2. That an update on Transitions from Children's to Adults services be provided to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in six months.

35/21

Youth Justice Peer Review

The Strategic Lead for Youth Justice Services introduced the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). The Committee were informed that in 2019, an inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation of Walsall Youth Justice Service, and the partnership responsible for it, resulted in a judgement of 'Requires Improvement'. A programme of improvement activity had taken place to address the recommendations made by the Inspectorate. In 2021, the Youth Justice Board commissioned an independent specialist youth justice practitioner, experienced in undertaking peer reviews, to carry out a review of improvement activity, progress made, and critical areas of development to be addressed before the next inspection.

The review had considered four main areas (raised within the inspection), these were:

- Out of Court Disposal Models

The review concluded all issues raised by HMIP in relation to Out of Court Disposal Models had been successfully addressed and practice adjusted, ensuring a more robust and sustainable approach.

- Management of risk of harm.

The review concluded that the main issues relating to practice highlighted by HMIP have been successfully addressed through training and ongoing quality assurance arrangements. However, partnership commitment to working with high-risk cases required refreshment to take into account the range of structures in place to manage multi-agency engagement with this group of children.

- Victims and restorative practice

The review concluded arrangements put in place following HMIP findings, had not delivered the improvements required for victims of youth crime, however, the review endorsed the creation of a dedicated Victim Officer post within the Youth Justice Service, approved by the Board in November 2021.

- Use of performance and Youth Justice Board engagement.

The review concluded that the Board had responded decisively to many of the areas identified in inspection and could make best use of the strategic position; strengthening links with wider strategies, identify

opportunities to collaborate and seek cross cutting solutions, including mobilising resources where possible.

A Member asked for further information on the funding of the Youth Justice Board, in response the Portfolio Holder stated that it was funded through a partnership funding arrangement.

In response to challenge from a Member, the Strategic Lead for Youth Justice described findings that Black children were over represented in the Youth Justice system, and the main issue found was that young people with mixed heritage were the most over represented group. It was acknowledged that mixed heritage was vast and complex, and further work was planned to further understand this in more depth to allow practice to be changed. It was expected that disproportionality of Black and mixed heritage boys would be a priority going forward.

A Member questioned why this happened and what the specific issues in Walsall were, how it could be prevented and what challenges the young people faced. The Strategic Lead stated that data could be provided, it was suggested that the Youth Justice Service was a small part of the 'system' and young people had a significant amount of life experience by the time they entered the Youth Justice system. There was a need to prevent young people accessing the system to avoid negative life experiences. Alongside this were undiagnosed SEND, and undiagnosed mental health issues. Cultural issues around trust needed to be addressed, and it was stressed that the Youth Justice System could not address all of these issues, however influence on Partners could increase understanding and reduce discrimination. Members acknowledged that there was not a quick fix, and suggested that information should be analysed to challenge issues raised. The Strategic Lead stated that a steering group had been established, which was led by young people, to ensure that their stories could be raised and influence the offer to these young people.

Resolved

1. To note the findings and assurance provided by the review
2. To support the future priorities and areas for development identified
3. A Board Member to attend a future meeting of the Committee.

36/21

Areas of Focus

The Committee considered the areas of focus document.

Resolved

The areas of focus and forward plans were noted.

The date of the next meeting was 8 March 2022, 6pm.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.15 p.m.

Signed

Date

Family Safeguarding: progress in eighteen months

Ward(s): All wards

Portfolios: Councillor Wilson, Children's Services

1. Aim

The aim of Family Safeguarding is to keep families together wherever possible, supporting children in children's social care where there is domestic abuse, substance abuse and mental health. It includes motivational interviewing, group supervision, shared record keeping and a parenting assessment.

The aim of this report is to provide an update on the implementation of family Safeguarding Model in Walsall.

2. Reason for Scrutiny

This report is to provide an update for Members of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to enable them to fulfil their key responsibilities and duties in holding the council and its partners to account for its work in preventing and protecting children and young people from harm in Walsall. This report outlines the progress of family safeguarding and its impacts on children and their families over the last 18 months.

3. Recommendations

- I. To support proposals for the ongoing implementation and development of the Family Safeguarding Model, both internally and across the wider partnership.
- II. To consider how Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee can support in making the model sustainable

4. Report detail – Know

4.1 Overall

The Walsall Right for Children (WR4C) Transformation Programme, launched in September 2018, drives forward our Children's Services vision to ensure that the right children are in the right place with the right support for as long as it's needed to ensure that they are safe from harm, are happy and learning well. Family Safeguarding is an important part of delivering this transformation.

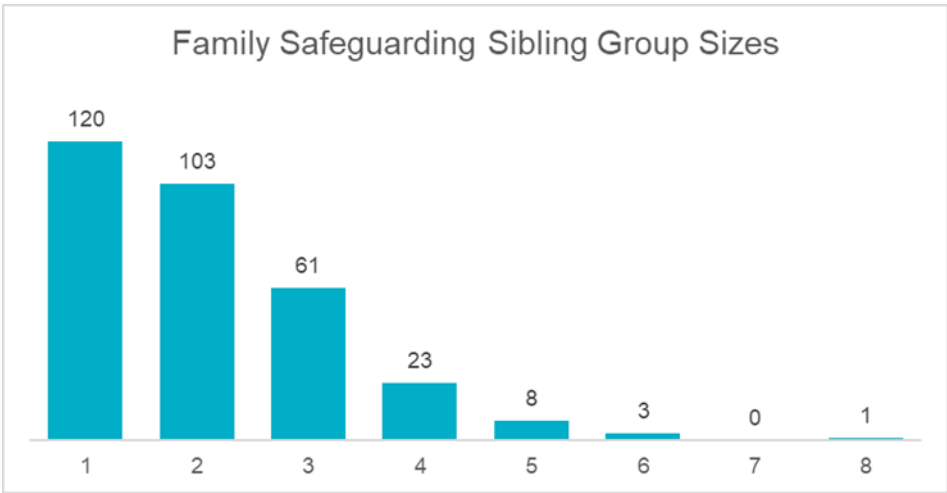
The Family Safeguarding Model was launched in Walsall on the 1 September 2020 and brings a whole-system change approach in Children's Social Care to tackle the impact of the 'trio of vulnerabilities' (domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental ill-health) on children's lives. Adults' and children's specialists work in a unified team to share

information, to provide support, and to prevent families reaching crisis stage. In each locality there is the funded establishment for a mental health worker, substance abuse worker and two domestic abuse workers (one for victims and one perpetrators). This provides better outcomes for children by keeping families together, addressing root causes, and preventing children from entering the care system. There is a wealth of evidence available externally which supports this.

The council and its partners have been given an initial investment by the Department for Education of £2.4M over three years (commencing in September 2020) to fund the adult specialist workers in the model, with a requirement to make this model sustainable by year 4 (September 2024).

Over the last 18 months we have moved from strength to strength both internally in terms of improved practice and externally in terms of improved partnership working.

As at 31/12/2021 we have worked with 654 children from 319 families under the Family Safeguarding Model go live. This has included 35 large families with sibling groups of at least four children.



We are increasingly linking in with other local authorities who use Family Safeguarding, extending our influence and improving our national profile. We have led on work informing other West Midlands Local Authorities, collaboratively with Hertfordshire (who developed the model) and have offered informal support to a further four local authorities nationally.

4.2 Governance and oversight

Local governance of the programme is through Walsall’s Safeguarding Partnership Board. This is underpinned by a detailed governance document. There are also clear links with the Safer Walsall Partnership, especially on the issues relating to domestic abuse and Walsall Together on issues primarily relating to health colleagues.

National governance of this programme is through a quarterly return to the Department of Education. This includes an overview of achievements, outline of risks and issues, milestones achieved and planned for the next quarter, and financial and performance data. Our returns have always met with excellent feedback and we have been commended on both our transparency and use of evidence to underpin progress.

The What Works Centre have also been commissioned to monitor our progress over the next five years using a mix of qualitative and quantitative measures

In June 2021 Hertfordshire conducted a peer review which looked at our outcomes and fidelity to the model, we received excellent feedback

Areas of excellence

- Practice observed was exemplary
- Clear evidence of effective and improving partnership working
- Listening to and working with children and parents was done routinely and positively

Areas for development (all subsequently tackled)

- Need to articulate the culture change explicitly
- Improve the frequency and oversight of group supervision
- Improve the preparation for and processes around the Public Law Outline (PLO)

Ofsted undertook a review in September 2021 and specific comments related to family safeguarding below;

“Effective multi-agency group supervision, using the model of social work practice in the locality teams, provides comprehensive analysis of children’s progress. Constructive challenge ensures a shared focus on the children and their needs. This helps to progress children’s plans”

“The implementation of the strength-based practice model and specialist multidisciplinary professionals in the locality safeguarding teams and support teams have accelerated the developments and improvements in partnership working at both a strategic and operational level. As a result children and their families receive appropriate and skilled multi-agency wraparound support and services that significantly improve children’s circumstances and reduce risk”

Locally, we have developed a detailed outcomes framework with underpinning Key Performance Indicators agreed with each partner and including equalities measures woven through. Detailed analysis is currently underway of outcomes and the initial findings for this can be found below.

4.3 Operational development

The Operational workstream meets monthly and includes core partners who are part of the Family Safeguarding teams, as well as colleagues from Education, Early Help and School Nursing and Health Visiting. Initially the focus was on promoting understanding of family safeguarding, it has now moved into shared development of the partnerships around families.

We are running groups for parents around emotional self-regulation, attachment to their children, domestic abuse and drug and alcohol issues.

We have initiated and are leading work to improve the support for fathers, who are often marginalised and their support for their children can be a valuable aspect of their child's safety and development.

We are actively engaged with locality working leading some aspects with our close colleagues in early help, this further develops the partnership and shared support for families.

One area of significant effort is improving the support for perpetrators of domestic abuse. This is one of the most significant issues facing our parents. Whilst there are some helpful interventions for the victims, there is relatively little for perpetrators. This has the unintended consequences of further pressuring victims and not holding perpetrators to account. This work has been undertaken in close collaboration with the police, probation and the community safety partnership

4.4 Locality working

Our approach to locality working is driven by our wider service transformation Walsall right4children. The WR4C Transformation Programme, launched in September 2018, drives forward our Children's Services vision to ensure that the right children are in the right place with the right support for as long as it's needed to ensure that they are safe from harm, happy and learning well.

A range of services are colocated in the hub in Darlaston the west of Walsall. This includes Early Help, Black Country Women's Aid and the Department of Work and Pensions

The hubs are;

- Darlaston opened September 2021
- Blakenall likely to open March 2022
- Silver Court likely to open March/April 2022
- Birchills likely to open April 2022

4.5 Impacts

We have been measuring the impacts of the Family Safeguarding Model using data and asking people their opinions. The most significant and overarching outcome is that more families stay together safely. Some more specific expected outcomes listed below:

a) Impacts on children and families

Headline data

It remains early days in monitoring outcomes for children who have been specifically supported under Family Safeguarding, but positive results are starting to be seen across the system, particularly for children who are aged 12 and under.

There have been significant reductions in the number of children who are subject of a child protection plan or who are entering care. These changes started to be seen following the start of the Family Safeguarding training in October 2019.

Children subject of a child protection plan

- The number of children who are subject of a child protection plan has reduced from 370 in December 2019 to 227 at the end of December 2021, a reduction of 38.6%.
- For children aged 12 and under, the number of children subject of a plan have reduced from 318 to 181, a reduction of 43.1%.

Children who have entered care

- Between April 2019 and March 2020, 242 children entered care, of which 177 (73%) were age 12 and under.
- Between March 2021 and February 2022, 166 children have entered care, of which 112 (67%) were aged 12 and under.
- Overall the number of children who have entered care has reduced by 31%, but for children aged 12 and under the reduction is 37%.

Of the 654 children from 318 families worked with under Family Safeguarding:

194 (29.7%) from 100 families have had a closed episode. Of these, only 24 children have been re-referred with seven (from three families) having a further Family Safeguarding episode. Most of those who were re-referred were either not assessed or closed following assessment.

305 children have been subject of a child protection plan while open to FS:

- 66 (21.6%) of these stepped up from CiN
- 24 became CP on or shortly after assessment
- 215 started Family Safeguarding while already on a CP Plan or after having stepped down from CP
- 146 are still open on a child protection plan

159 (52%) children have had their child protection plan ended:

- 85 (53%) stepped down (61 stepped down to CiN and 24 no longer at risk of significant harm)
- 15 (9%) ended for other reasons

Families consistently stated that family safeguarding was more participatory, supportive and empowering than their previous experiences of social services. They have welcomed Motivational Interviews (albeit often after some initial reservation) and the multi-agency nature of the support. Almost without exception, the parents and carers told the evaluators that their quality of life had improved as a result of Family Safeguarding.

Locally we have established that parents have described the programme as “eye opening” and many are positive about the support they have received from the adult specialist workers

"I had a better understanding of where I was"

"There was trust"

"Helped me consider ways to cope and get through stuff"

"It was an eye-opener"

"Working with the adult workers put things into perspective"

"There was a time when I was really struggling, having that support network helped"

We have also emerging evidence to show that victims of domestic abuse engage more readily with IDVAs based with the family safeguarding teams than through other routes. We also have evidence that the number of repeat call outs to police is reducing too.

We also have a number of case studies which illustrate the impacts

Dad is no longer with Mum, Mum had a new partner where there were reports of arguments and physical violence. Partner was not living with mum consistently. Initially support was offered and Mum was "minimising" saying thing like "It's not really abuse, doesn't happen often."

The social worker and the domestic abuse worker individually and together encouraged Mum to try an initial session around domestic abuse. At this initial session, there was work around the definitions and types of abuse. This was "eye opening" for Mum and was so different to what she expected, she said "I am so glad I changed my mind".

The main areas of learning for Mum were the setting of boundaries and impacts on children who may witness or be aware of domestic abuse.

One of the impacts is primary aged children who can internalise when stress and stop talking. The social worker, domestic worker and Mum identified a child in the family where this was happening. The social worker did some direct work with the children and the domestic abuse worker supported Mum. Now the child chats all the time.

This demonstrates the collaboration between social worker and domestic abuse practitioner, which would not be possible without family safeguarding. It also demonstrates the interconnectedness of parental and child issues, which can be managed so much better by multi-disciplinary teams.

We know that we have around half the numbers of children on a child protection plan compared to when we started family safeguarding. This means they get support in a less formal and intrusive manner. We know there are not repeat re-referrals, so it seems we are genuinely sorting things out, rather than not helping those who need it.

We also know there has been a 30% reduction in the number of children coming into care. We know that most children do better in their own families, when the families are supported well. This also has an added benefit of saving money.

b) Impacts on staff

Family Safeguarding has been shown to strengthen information sharing and decision making, developing the skills and knowledge of practitioners, and minimising pressure for social workers through reduced caseloads.

This has been demonstrated by the staff experience locally, throughout the implementation most staff have been extremely positive about the model

*“There is a coherence and power in the model, especially the strength based approach”
“From the earliest implementation people could see improvements for some children and their families”*

“Group supervision allowed for in depth multi-professional challenge”

“The wider “learning lessons” rather than “criticising staff” when thing went wrong was hugely impactful”

“It actually saved time, having expertise “on tap”

“Staff learnt so much from each other using this approach that everyone’s practice improves”

c) Impacts on the wider system

There has been a significant and measurable improvement in strategic partnership arrangements which has contributed to the positive discussions about a children’s alliance. At a practical level this improved partnership working has led to day-to-day improvements working across organisations to support children and families.

We have also emerging evidence to show that victims of domestic abuse engage more readily with IDVAs based with the family safeguarding teams than through other routes. We also have evidence that the number of repeat call outs to police is reducing too.

4.6 Workforce development

Despite COVID-19, our staff have had significant amounts of high quality training and development to underpin the changes in practice and culture. This is being increasingly supplemented with a range of practice development approaches, such as training the trainer and masterclasses. Recent topics have focussed on areas such as working well with interpreters and motivating teenagers.

At go live we had 13 of the 16 adult workers in post. All recruited on fixed term contracts. Over the eighteen months we increased our number of workers to 14 of the 16. Over the last six months a number of workers have begun to move on, partly to take up other opportunities and partly because of the lack of security of fixed term posts and secondments. Currently we have 11 of the posts filled and are working actively to both recruit and retain workers.

4.7 Communications

We have recently refreshed our stakeholder mapping and have identified the valuable progress made in all areas of the system. We are particularly positive about improved links with health visitors and schools.

Whilst we continue to communicate regularly about family safeguarding, as we move to our second birthday we are increasingly talking about children’s services in general rather than family safeguarding in particular, since this is now *how we do our business”

4.8 Sustainability

Children's social care invest a large amount of resource into safeguarding children. Since this resource is to provide a statutory function which will continue irrespective of other considerations. The focus of sustainability is on those non-statutory additional resources to support family safeguarding.

We were given 2.2 million from The DfE on a grant basis. This was in two distinct allocations

- One was for the start- up of the programme, especially programme infrastructure and personnel. These are non-recurrent expenses and we anticipate spending to be completed by September 2023.
- The second was for the costs of 16 adult specialist workers (mental health, drug and alcohol, domestic abuse victim and perpetrator). This was allocated on the basis of full funding for year 1 (September 2020-August 2021). 70 % funding for year 2 (September 2021-August 2022) and 50% funding for year 3 (September 2022-August 2023).

This funding runs along academic years (September to September) since it commenced at the "go live" point.

Below is a table outlining the shortfall in funding for those adult specialist workers, with the full costs being required in 2024/2025

	2021-2022 year 2	2022-2023 Year 3	2023-2024 Year 4	2024-2025 Year 5
Funding shortfall	- 77,786	- 307,817	- 662,833	- 947,758

We have worked hard as a partnership and have established much of the required resource and have plans for agreeing the remainder,

- Year 2 we are confident we have identified the resources for the shortfall
- Year 3 we have already identified almost all of the required shortfall
- Year 4 we have identified around half of the shortfall recurrently since the funding is along academic years not financial years,(in financial year 4 from April 2024 to September 2024 we have some DfE money to support adult worker salaries)

5. Reducing inequalities

Overall, the implementation of Family Safeguarding is likely to have a positive impact on equality. In order to demonstrate this, there will be a specific strand of the performance and outcome framework which will explore retrospective and prospective data to establish any differences in outcomes for families with a range of protected characteristics, including gender, disability, race and religion.

Evaluation in other areas suggest that fathers engage more positively with Family Safeguarding. The approach to domestic violence within Family Safeguarding includes active support for both victims and perpetrators. Since the service users are largely of one gender, male victims and female perpetrators may have a different experience of services. The use of interpreters will be monitored to ensure those for whom English is a second language will be actively included, we are offering bespoke training "the use of interpreters and motivational interviewing"

Family Safeguarding has a clear link to the impacts in the Marmot reports, as it will enable children to have a more positive start in life and maximise their capabilities.

6. Family Safeguarding links to Council Corporate Plan Priorities

The Walsall Right for Children Transformation Programme contributes to a number of our Council Corporate Plan priorities:

a) People

Throughout the programme, we have and will continue to work with children, young people and their families to ensure they have increased independence, improved health, and can positively contribute to their communities.

b) Internal Focus

The programme is focused on a whole-system change, to ensure that within Children's Services we are as efficient and effective as we can be.

c) Children

The primary objective of the programme is to ensure that the right support is in place so that children can have the best start and are safe from harm, are happy, healthy and learning well.

7. Decide

To note the contents of this report and to support recommendations

8. Respond

Any feedback and recommendations from scrutiny will be taken to the Family Safeguarding Partnership Board.

9. Review

There is a clear governance structure for the programme which includes regular data monitoring and scrutiny, both within the local authority and across the partnerships (see the governance structure above).

Background papers

- Second wave national evaluation of Family Safeguarding:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/932367/Hertfordshire_Family_Safeguarding.pdf
-

Author

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Right for Children Transformation programme

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Cllr Tim Wilson. Children Social Care

Executive Summary:

Walsall Right 4 Children (WR4C), launched in September 2018, is a whole system forward thinking transformation programme of which the first phase focussed on transformation across Council delivered Children's Services in ensuring we were supporting the right children, at the right time, in the right place for as long as it is needed. The outcome of this transformation leading to outstanding practice and improved outcomes for children and young people in Walsall was recognised by Ofsted in November 2021.

As we were embedding our internal services we started to focus on Co-ordinating and influencing the establishment of a mature WR4C partnership platform to drive the delivery of the WR4C vision in January 2021.

We undertook a review of strategic partnership working around the agenda of children, young people and families. This review was undertaken in collaboration with the CCG, Walsall Health Trust, the Safeguarding Partnership and the Safer Walsall Partnership and raised some critical issues around the effectiveness of the partnership as well as some drivers for change, opportunities and solutions.

As a result all partner collectively agreed to a series of externally facilitated strategic partnership workshops to explore more effective strategic collaboration and decision making across the partnership in relation to children, young people and family business.

The report provides an overview of the work done the journey so far in the development of a Walsall Children and Young People Strategic Alliance.

Reason for scrutiny:

The report provides an overview and assurance of the work we are doing with partners through the development of development of a Walsall Children and Young People Strategic Alliance to secure better outcomes for children growing up in Walsall

Recommendations:

The report to be noted.

Background papers:

Resource and legal considerations:

Not applicable to this report

Council Corporate Plan Priorities:

The 'Right for Children' transformation programme will contribute to a number of our Council Corporate Plan Priorities:

1. People: The transformation programme will aim to work with children, young people and their families to ensure they have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities.
2. Internal Focus: The programme is focussing on a whole system change to ensure that within Children's Services we are as efficient and effective as we can be.
3. Children: The main focus of the transformation programme is to ensure that the right support is in place so that children can have the best start and are safe from harm, happy, health and learning well
4. Communities: Our transformation programme will connect and strengthen relationships with Walsall communities and ensure that they are resilient with all housing needs for children and young people being met in safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and cohesion.

Citizen impact:

We will listen to children, young people and their family's current experiences and understand and learn from when services make a difference and when they do not. As users of our service, children and families are best placed to tell us what it feels like to live in Walsall and to be in need of help and support. Through our WR4C Big Conversation we will continue to work in true collaboration with children, young people and families to develop and deliver our transformation programme).

Environmental impact:

Not applicable for this report

Performance management:

The Alliance will develop a clear Outcomes framework to measure the success of the strategic developments.

Reducing inequalities:


The aim of our 'Right for Children' Transformation programme is to ensure that all children have the right support, in the right place, at the right time, for as long as it is needed to enable them to be safe from harm, happy and learning well with self-belief, aspiration and support to be their best.

Consultation:

The Alliance has committed to a programme of consultation and co-production with children, young people and families.

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Report

1. Context

In January 2021 we undertook a review of strategic partnership working around the agenda of children, young people and families. This review was undertaken in collaboration with the CCG, Walsall Health Trust, the Safeguarding Partnership and the Safer Walsall Partnership and raised some critical issues around the effectiveness of the partnership as well as some drivers for change, opportunities and solutions.

As a result all partner collectively agreed to a series of externally facilitated strategic partnership workshops to explore more effective strategic collaboration and decision making across the partnership in relation to children, young people and family business.

2. The journey so far

Over a series of 3 workshops key stakeholders including Children Services, Public Health, CCG, Walsall Health care trust, Resilient Communities, Police, Safeguarding Partnership we set out to:

- Establish our vision for more effective partnership working in relation to the business of securing better outcomes for children and families
- Create a collectively understand the context for change including:
 - What the enablers are
 - What the barriers are
- Have a collective understanding of the issues we are trying to resolve in order to secure better outcomes for children and their families
- Agree priorities

The workshop raised following key reflections that guided our thinking in the development of the Alliance:

- Meeting the needs of children, young people and family's needs a mature strategic partnership approach. This has been complex, especially with ongoing regional and local organisational change agenda's driven by budget reductions, national change agenda's e.g. academisation, Social Care review, Supporting People, integrated care agenda, etc

The pandemic has enabled partners to come together with a common purpose, find solutions to get us through the challenges and support communities impacted by COVID19, establishing new ways of working that connects us better and make decisions in a timely way to support the most vulnerable.

As we reset our activities in the context of the new normal it has given us lots of challenges as a partnership to reflect, check our moral compasses and rethink:

- What is important?
 - What are we leaving behind?
 - What are we retaining and why, i.e. to what purpose?
-
- Partners agreed that we needed to work towards collective accountability through developing a systems leadership using an Alliance framework achieved through:
 - influence and 'nudge', not formal power
 - alignment around common vision or purpose: improved outcomes for service users
 - a focus on the outcomes and results, not the process
 - strong but robust and honest relationships
 - a mind set, rather than specific actions and behaviours
-
- At the last workshop in November 2022 partners signed up to the establishment of a "Walsall Children and Young People Strategic Alliance", critical to developing new ways of thinking and new ways of working, driven by the voices of children and young people and **working to one moral purpose - to regularly consider how the lived experience of children and young people in Walsall can be improved.**

3. Children and young people's voice at the Centre of Strategic Thinking and Doing

There has been three key pieces of engagement work undertaken with children and young people growing up in Walsall provided us with valuable and rich information that help us to understand their lived experience and the things Walsall partnerships need to consider in ensuring all children in Walsall can be happy, healthy, safe and learning well.

The key pieces of work are:

- An ethnographic Study on 'growing up in Walsall' – commissioned by Public Health - November 2020
- Big Conversation – Summer Daily Conversations programme – undertaking by Children's Services during Summer 2021.
- The Big Ask/ The Big Answer undertaken by the children commissioner for England – September 2021

A detailed overview can be found in Appendix 2

3. Governance

- USP of the Alliance and who does it specifically need to work with will be key. We need to make sure there is the right interface with other boards and other groups. The Alliance is not just a coordination role but is the voice and advocate for children.
- Today's children are upstream adults, and a lot of the parents out there today are a product of the local schooling system so, our schools are an important part of this collective model. It was therefore agreed that the Walsall Learning Alliance will feed into the children and young people Alliance ensuring that wider system issues affecting children's learning is picked up.

- There is a need to understanding that there is a world outside of Walsall and need to have a close working relationship with our Black Country partners to get support right for all children across the Black Country.
As a result the work achieved in Walsall on the Learning Alliance and the CYP Alliance was shared with the Black Country Alliance is considered a replicating the model for a coherent systemic approach to improving the public sector offer for the young people across all 4 Black Country local areas. This would support the possibility of shared solutions to the more complex challenges facing each of the 4 localities. If successful, this group would sit above the Walsall Alliance and act as the children and young people key group advising the ICS Board in the new NHS arrangements.

4. Membership of the Children and Young People Alliance

The development of the Alliance has included strategic leaders across key organisations including Walsall CCG, Walsall Health Trust, Children's Services, Walsall Together, Neighbourhood Police, Resilient communities, Safeguarding partnership, Public health, Black Country Health Care, WHG and Chair of the Learning Alliance.

5. Next steps

- A draft plan on a page (appendix2) was developed outlining the Alliances strategic vision, strategic priorities, how we will achieve the priorities and how we know we will have made a difference – see appendix1 out for consultation with:
 - Corporate Parenting board
 - Walsall Together
 - Safeguarding partnership
 - Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Safer Walsall Partnership
- A network of key people across all organisation who are involved with facilitating engagement and co-production in Walsall with children and young people has been developed. This will enable coordinated and strategic approach to maximise information and dialogue through existing opportunities as well as identification of gaps and barriers. This work may result in a young people conference later this year to enable designated time to bring children and young people together to reflect on key issues and consider co production opportunities to drive system change.
- The Staff College will to continue to be involved as a critical friend bringing in in best practice, research evidence and healthy challenge. This will be for the duration of the first 12 months while the partnership is maturing and allowing us to move forward in a evidenced based way.

Walsall Children, Young People & Families Strategic Alliance

Making Walsall Right 4 Children

Working together to ensure CHILDREN have the best possible start, are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well.

What we'll do

One common moral purpose

Create and maintain a strategic alliance which will regularly consider how the lived experience of children and young people in Walsall can be improved.

Building a strong alliance

We are committed to working together in a way where we put the need of children and families above systems and process.

Clear priorities

- Making Walsall right WITH children – listening, acting, collaborating
- Best start in life for all children – before and after birth
- Attaining and Achieving – linked to Learning Alliance priorities
- Keeping Children Safe
- Keeping children with and connected to their family and community
- No child left behind – tackling poverty and inequalities across all areas
- Think Family – we will build relationships with families and provide help and support within their communities
- Mitigating against impact ongoing pandemic - key themes around poverty, mental health and wellbeing, etc continue to come up)
- Make Walsall a better place to grow and develop – look and feel nice with opportunities to thrive

How we'll do it

Right Help Right Time

We will focus on offering support in a proactive way, using innovative ways to make services easy to access and ensuring all our vulnerable children have access to a trusted adult who feels confident in navigating or providing the right support.

Build resilient families

We will build community led help by building networks and circles of support that help and strengthen families in difficult moments before problems escalate to the point where a formal intervention is needed.

Strong stable Skilled workforce

We will provide effective support across our collective workforce to ensure we build a consistent strength based high quality of practice across all our work with children and young people.

Big Conversation

We will have a ongoing programme of activities, aimed at talking with and listening to children, young people and parents about the services we deliver and what is important to them to drive forward our strategic thinking and doing.

Evidence based decision making/continuous improvement

We will provide strong leadership informed by 'what works' setting our direction. We will implement changes that work for Walsall children and families and underpinned by evidence.

Locality Working/offer

We will focus on connecting practitioners with communities, ensuring the needs of each community is well understood and collectively we have the right support in the right way to meet this need.

Artwork of 'My Walsall' to be included



How we'll know we've made a difference

- Children and young people tell us Walsall is a great place to grow up, they feel connected to their community and feel positive about their future. When they need support services are easy to access and services provided are of good quality (annual Survey).
- Children will tell us they are involved in decision making that affects their lives.
- Failure demand will be reduced – NFA rate, DNA rate and re-referral rates will reduce
- It will be easy to recruit and retain skilled staff. Workforce will tell us they enjoy working for Walsall, they feel supported to do their job effectively and they feel they making a difference for children, young people and their families.
- The locality profile tells us that outcomes for children are improving and the disproportional difference in outcomes for any groups of children and young is closing.



- *Children and young people voices on what it is like growing up in Walsall to help our Strategic Thinking and Doing*



Walsall Council

Page 20 of 55 **PROUD** OF OUR **PAST** OUR **PRESENT** AND FOR OUR **FUTURE**

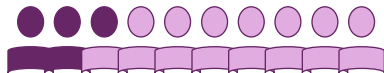
About children and young people living in Walsall

Walsall has a population of 286,716

69,375 of whom are children aged 0-17)

Number of children and young people aged 0-17 is projected to rise to 71,822 by 2030

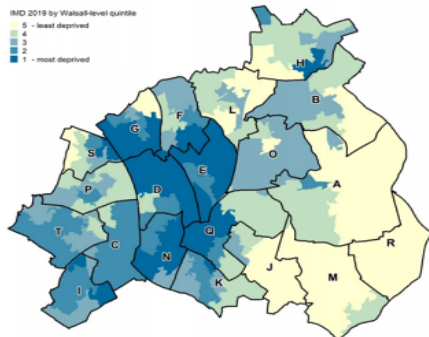
● 0-17 ● 18 and over



Almost a quarter of the population are children and young people 2020 mid-year population estimates

Almost a quarter of our children have English as an additional language

In 2019/20 hospital admissions for accidental or deliberate injury in 0-14 year olds in Walsall were lower than regional and national rates.

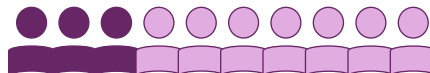


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Walsall Council

● BME ● White

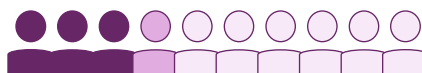


Almost a third of Children are from BME backgrounds 2011 Census

Children and young people have more health challenges than their peers

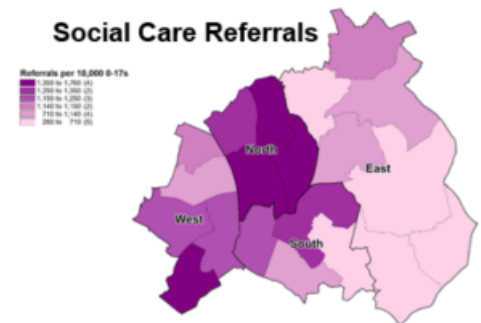
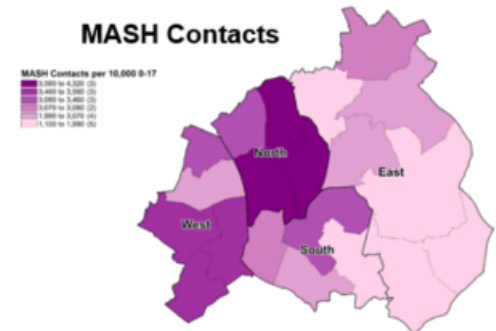
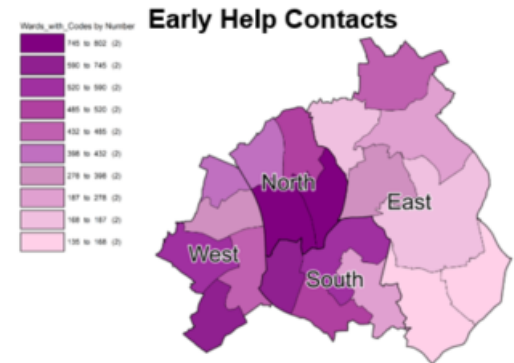
In 2019/20 hospital admissions for accidental or deliberate injury in 0-14 year olds in Walsall were lower than regional and national rates.

Walsall is the 19th most deprived Local Authority in the country (IDACI)



39% of children live in poverty after housing costs Campaign for Good Child Poverty – May 2021

Need is unevenly distributed across the borough



PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

Children Voices need to be at the heart of our thinking and doing by:



LISTENING



REFLECTING



RESPONDING

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LISTENING – what did we do?

Three key pieces of engagement work undertaken with children and young people growing up in Walsall provided us with valuable and rich information that help us to understand their lived experience and the things Walsall partnerships need to consider in ensuring all children in Walsall can be happy, healthy, safe and learning well.

The key pieces of work are:

- ❖ An ethnographic study on 'growing up in Walsall' – commissioned by Public Health - November 2020
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A separate report is available on each pieces of work.



Growing up in Walsall – public health report

Walsall Council commissioned M·E·L R research to undertake a detailed ethnographic study to help them understand what it is like to be a young person growing up in Walsall.

The Council were particularly interested in hearing from girls and boys aged between 11-18 years old (i.e. from year 6 of primary school and throughout secondary school), who had different educational needs, came from different parts of the Borough, required different levels of parental input and came from different ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Walsall Council commissioned M·E·L R research to conduct up to ten in-depth ethnographic case studies with children and young people. The ethnography study focused on the young person's experience of growing up in Walsall, their challenges, hopes, dreams and fears, what support they access in comparison to what they need, and their recommendations to help make Walsall a better place to grow up

The findings from the research were used to inform the Council's Public Health 2020 and 2021 annual reports and its 'Walsall Best Start 4Life' (BS 4L) strategy.

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Big Conversation – Summer Daily Conversation 2021

Children's Service created the **Big Conversation** programme as part of its Walsall Right 4 Children transformation journey - a programme of activities, aimed at listening to and acting on what children and families are saying about the services we deliver as well as seeking out opportunities to collaborate with them on aspects of day to day practice and / or transformation.

During the Summer the Local Authority and its partners took time to talk to 323 children aged 5 to 18 and 102 parents with the aim to better understand;

- ❖ Their lived experience of growing up in Walsall?
- ❖ The impact of COVID on their lives, their peers and their community
- ❖ What might help improve their lived experience now
- ❖ What their ambitions are for the future
- ❖ What might be barriers to achieving their future ambition
- ❖ What help or support could help remove these barriers to achieve their ambition



Big ask/big response

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza DBE, launched the Big Ask in 2021 as a means of hearing the voices of as many children in England as possible.

She undertook this as one of her first tasks on becoming Children's Commissioner. Every school and Local Authority were asked to engage with over half a million children aged 6-17 responded to the survey.

Over 1,700 children and young people in Walsall responded to the questionnaire. This data was made available to help our local developments.



REFLECTING on what children told us

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What do children say about growing up in Walsall?

"I think Walsall is quite dirty. I have seen empty beer cans, syringes and empty condom wrappers in Silverdale Park, but I think the Arboretum is much cleaner and safer! The Town Centre also has a good variety of food shops, and a cinema!"

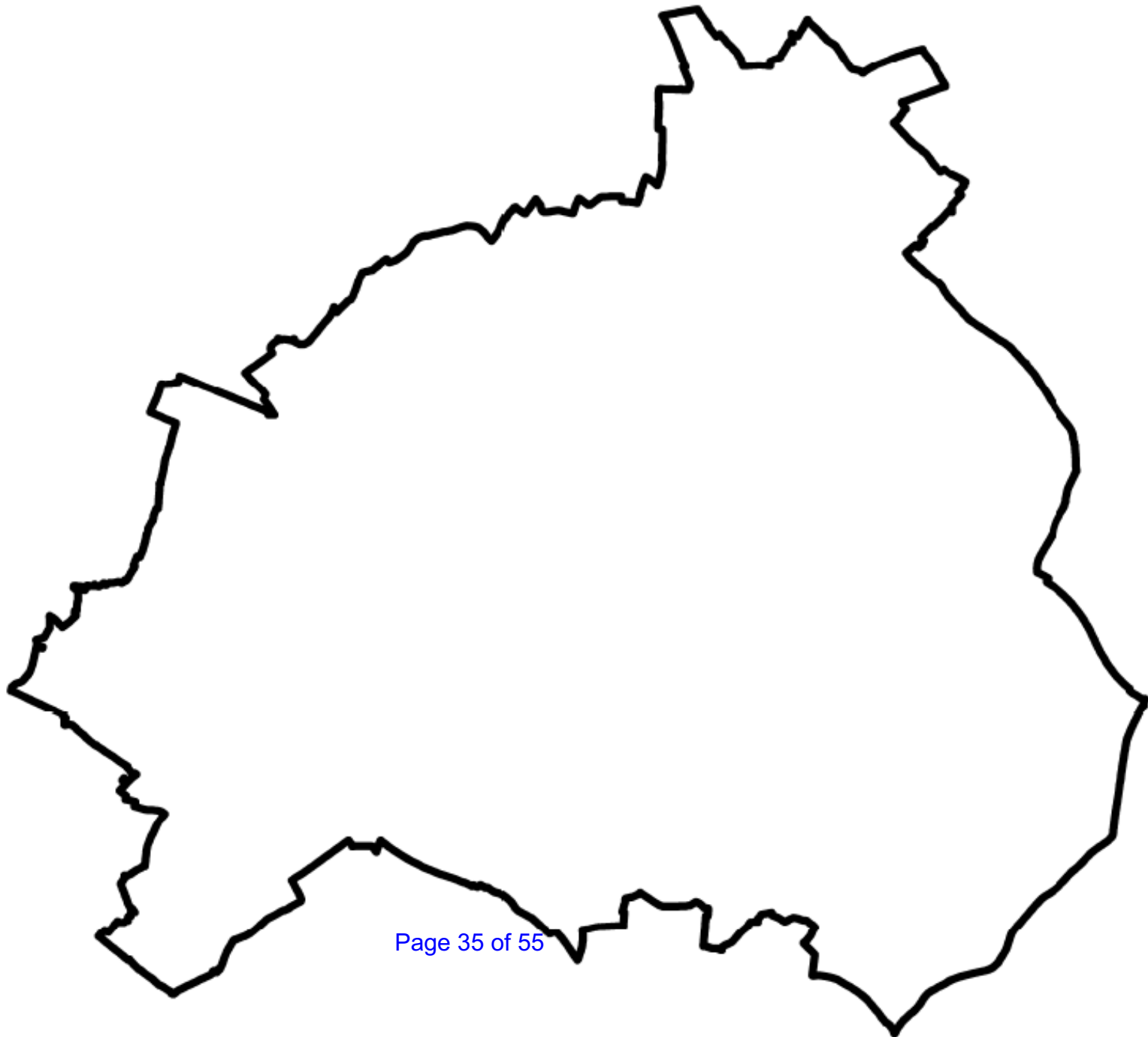
Not so good

- Family
- Friends
- Somewhere to play
- Good school or learning opportunities
- Sense of community

“Walsall has a good community – everyone seems to know each other and get on with their neighbours. It is also very multicultural. I have seen lots of weddings in different cultures and religions taking place – hearing the music and seeing all the colourful outfits makes me happy.”

- ❖ Too much crime
- ❖ Too many homeless people
- ❖ Too many people drinking on the street or in the park
- ❖ Not enough green space/areas to play
- ❖ The house they live in
- ❖ How their community looks – litter, vandalism
- ❖ Not feeling safe on the street
- ❖ More opportunities for children and young people to be involved in decision making

What
children
need
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What does Being Happy mean to children?

What does being happy mean to children?

"Happiness means when something good has happened to me or to someone I know"

"Satisfied, and having no worries. Having a laugh"

"Happiness is important especially because it allows me to make the best memories"

"To not be upset, nothing negative around. Calm and everything positive"

"For me, happiness is having good relationships with my friends and family, being healthy and having a peaceful time"

What makes children happy?



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- ❖ Having a supportive network of friends, families (and pets)
 - ❖ Keeping active, doing things and making memories
 - ❖ Money, having nice things
 - ❖ Listening to children and hearing them out
 - ❖ Making others happy and yourself happy
 - ❖ Always looking on the bright side and thinking positive thought
 - ❖ Learning new things
- PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE**



What does Being Happy mean to children?

Big Ask told us that

7% of children in Walsall are **unhappy with their lives overall** England-wide the total unhappy with their lives was 9%.

- The biggest cause of unhappiness was **the choice of things to do in my local area** with 19.5% (1,687 children) of 9-17 year olds responding to the survey unhappy
- The second biggest cause of unhappiness for 9-17 year old respondents was **my mental health** at 17%
- Life at school and college** ranked third at 14%
- Unhappiness with **progress in education** ranked fifth at 9.4%
- Unhappiness over **personal safety** ranked as one of the lowest causes of unhappiness at 3%
- For children aged 6-7, who responded from Walsall the factors that made them unhappy included **how much I can play** (6.3%), **my family life** (4%), **the places I can have fun** (3.4%) and **education** came fourth in the things that caused unhappiness.

"Walsall has a good community – everyone seems to know each other and get on with their neighbours. It is also very multicultural. I have seen lots of weddings in different cultures and religions taking place – hearing the music and seeing all the colourful outfits makes me happy."

"The main thing that concerns me whilst growing up in Walsall is the gangs. Sometimes when I go into town, I see lots of 'dodgy' people. This makes me nervous as I think they may follow me and something bad might happen to me. I don't really feel safe walking somewhere on my own as there can be big groups of children."

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What does being healthy mean to children?



ed about my mental health as it can affect my education.

*I have lost concentration and motivation to do school work. I have also
I about COVID-19.*

going through a hard time a while ago, I spoke to CAMHS about my depression.

...been really good and given me all the support I needed but I would have had more regular appointments.

What helps children to be healthy?

Healthy
affordable
food

Digital wellbeing

Social
network

affordable
exercise

Asking for help when you need it

Good advice
and guidance

Good
sleep

Good hygiene

Mental wellbeing

A number of children mentioned that there are too many unhealthy take-aways available in Walsall, which they perceived as a barrier to children in Walsall being healthy.

What does learning well mean to children?

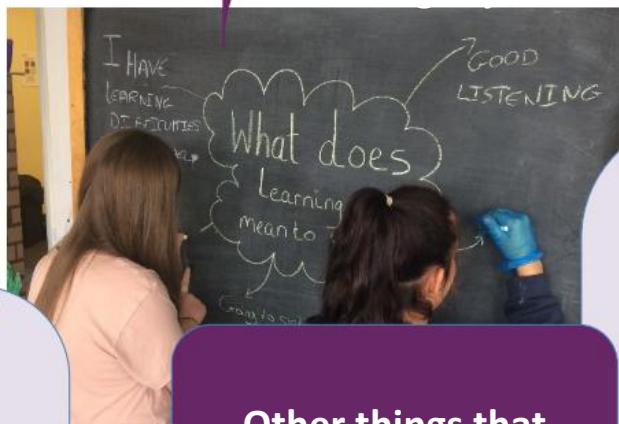
Key drivers for doing well at school are

- ❖ To earn good money
- ❖ Having a nice car
- ❖ Owning a nice house

**When I grow up
I want to...
SET HIGH ASPIRATIONS**

What children say they are responsible for to help them learn better

- ❖ Positive mind set
- ❖ Working hard
- ❖ listening
- ❖ Not being disruptive or distracted in class
- ❖ Being on time
- ❖ Asking for help
- ❖ Not giving up on dreams.



Other things that could help with learning better

- ❖ Good role models
- ❖ Good friendships
- ❖ Being more active
- ❖ Good sleep routines
- ❖ Getting feedback on your achievements
- ❖ Different teaching styles to meet different learning needs
- ❖ Additional support for children who need it
- ❖ Early identification of SEND and additional support
- ❖ Supportive parents/adults.
- ❖ Funding to go to university

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What does feeling safe mean to children?

Being with family
Being alive
Someone looking after me
Not getting stabbed
Feeling secure
Live without fear

"Feeling safe is knowing that nothing can happen to you and you just knowing you're not going to get hurt and everything will be fine, surrounded by your family and friends."

What children say about what keeps them safe

Wearing a face-mask
Good friends
Not talking to strangers online
My Family
Trusted Adult
Being in my comfort zone
Help when I need it
Going to school
police

"I feel safe in the area where I live because I know the people and they know me and my family."

"The main thing that concerns me whilst growing up in Walsall is the gangs. Sometimes when I go into town, I see lots of 'dodgy' people. This makes me nervous as I think they may follow me and something bad might happen to me. I don't really feel safe walking somewhere on my own as there can be big groups of children"

A bouquet of beautiful memories
 - Enriched by beautiful memories.
 - Always with a million leaves
 - When you could have spared you
 - It's just for a few more years
 - For us to think of you
 - Each player we should
 - It's all for you
 - I love you

- “what I found difficult was following the rules, trying to stay safe, not be able to go places and walk in queues everywhere and not being able to see normal again.”*

"found going back into society difficult and was scared of crowds, but it is better now. When I returned to school some of my friendships changed. I lost some old friends and made some new ones."

What do children say about their future

Big Ask told
us that

- ❖ As to what was important for their future as 6-8 year olds 68% said **getting on well with their current family**; 66% said **being healthy and active** and 65% said a **good job or career**. 45% saw a good education as being important to their future which implies some in this age group don't correlate a good education with a good job or career.
- ❖ As to what was important for their future as 6-8 year olds 68% said **getting on well with their current family**; 66% said **being healthy and active** and 65% said a **good job or career**. 45% saw a good education as being important to their future which implies some in this age group don't correlate a good education with a good job or career.
- ❖ For 9-17 year olds the most important issue for their futures was a **good job** (72%) (69% England-wide). This was followed by: **having enough money to buy the things I need** (59%), **having a good education** (55%), **having good friends** (53%) and **getting on well with my current family** (33%).
- ❖ **Good mental health** came fifth in terms of things important to their futures for 7-19 year old respondents in Walsall. Interesting **physical health** came in eighth at 31%.
- ❖ **Living in a nice area** was important for 11% of respondents and being part of a **good local community** was rated by only 4.6% as being important.
- ❖ 14% of respondents aged 9-17 in Walsall **were not worried about anything**. Of the key worries for that age group 39% were worried about **not having enough money to buy the things I need**, 35% were worried about **having a good job or career**; 34% were worried about a **healthy environment** and 32% were worried about their **mental health**. 19% were worried about **having a good education**.
- ❖ When asked whether they thought they would have a better life than their parents 53% thought that they **would have a better life**. 9% however thought that it was **unlikely that they would have a better life than their parents** (8% Walsall North, 11% Aldridge-Brownhills, 9.49% Walsall South).

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What do children say about their future

❖ When asked about what concerned young people in the future, the most frequently mentioned topics were:

- ❖ **doing well at school**
- ❖ **passing exams**
- ❖ **securing future employment.**

"In the future, I would like to pass my Level 3 Sports course and my GCSE Maths and English. After this, I would like to become a Sports Development Officer or PE teacher. In order to achieve these things, I would like some work experience (as getting a job is very important to me). I am worried about putting together my CV and going for interviews (due to my Autism) so it would be good if Walsall Council could give me a chance without having to jump through 'hoops' to get there. I think the council should give kids more opportunities to get work experience, real work experience that gets you a job."

"I am currently studying A Level Sociology and English at Bloxwich Academy. After I finish this, I would like to train to become a support worker which specialises in young children or teenagers. I do not think young people always get the help they need whilst they are growing up."

"I would really like to go on University visits but only the top performing classes are allowed on these. I think if the school gave the other classes the opportunity too, more kids (including me) would feel more inspired to work harder and get better grades."

What children would do if they were the boss to ensure that all children are happy, healthy, safe and learning well:



What children told us in 2019 about what they would do if they were the boss of Children's Services is not much different to what they told us now:

- ❖ Listen to children's views more and take notice and take action.
- ❖ Listen to the people who know me well (parents, carers, key workers)
- ❖ Invest more in mental health services
- ❖ Provide the right support to keep families together
- ❖ Make sure children have places to go where they have trusted adults they can talk to and provide good help
- ❖ Provide free transport, school uniforms and food
- ❖ Help as many people as possible

"I would like the Council and other organisations to make Walsall a more enjoyable place to grow up."

"Finally, I would like The Council to listen to young people and involve teenagers in decision making going forwards"



REFLECTING
on what
parents told us
(102 responses from
parents who's children
attended Summer HAF
programme)

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What do parents say about living in Walsall?

The best thing

- 61% close to friends and family
- 51% parks and open spaces
- 42% it's where I grew up
- 35% good schools and colleges
- 32% health facilities
- 32% affordable housing
- 31% good transport links
- 28% leisure facilities
- 28% feel safe
- 22% the shops
- 21% diverse community
- 19% community spirit

What they don't like about living in Walsall

- Crime rate – some indication parents feel its getting worse, 'not feeling safe'
- Nothing to do for young people
- No safe places for children to play
- Racism
- No information on what services or what's on in different communities
- The way some parks and places in the borough look – 'mess', 'litter', 'run down' 'look of the town centre', 'unclean'
- Too many rough sleepers
- Drug taking and drinking in the street
- Lack of support around children with SEN



What would make living in Walsall better for their family

- More activities/safe spaces for children and young people including children with SEND
- More police
- Clean-up and make-over of certain areas – like Town centre
- Community projects/ better community interaction
- More green spaces

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RESPONDING

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Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22

Committee date	2nd Sept	12 th October	23 rd November	31st January	8 th March	13 th April
Report Deadline	24 th August	4 th October	15 th November	21 st January	28 th February	5 th April
Safeguarding young people with disabilities			ZM/HK			
Family Safeguarding		<i>If CAMHS not available</i>			Helen Billings Rita Homer	
CAMHS					Overview.	
Effectiveness of partnership working (strategic level)					IV	
Understanding the impact of deprivation			HK			
Children's services Performance			HK			
Transition into adult services				ZM/KJ		
Holiday Activity Fund – impact		IV				
Child Exploitation						ZM/Partners
Youth Justice peer review				PR		
Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report						
Finance			Q2 Finance report Budget			

BLACK COUNTRY
EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - PUBLISHED UP TO JUNE 2022

Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement – Deed of Variation	
Key Decision to be considered:	Approval of the proposed amendments, as highlighted, to the Collaboration Agreement covering the removal of the Advisory Board and revised Black Country Executive Joint Committee governance, and Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones, included as Appendix 1 to this report.
Date first entered into the plan	02 August 2021
Contact Officer	Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk
Main consultees	Walsall Council
Date Item to be considered	30 March 2022
Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme changes	
Project Name	Hatherton Street Phase 2
Key Decision to be considered	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Jessups Brothers Ltd, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hatherton Street Phase 2 project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year. Note that change request relates to a change in match funding and outputs.
Date first entered into the plan	01 November 2021
Contact Officer	Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk
Main consultees	Walsall Council
Date Item to be considered	30 March 2022

Project Name	i9 Wolverhampton
Key Decision to be considered	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Ion Projects Limited, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the i9 Wolverhampton project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year. Note that change request relates to a change in outputs.
Date first entered into the plan	01 November 2021
Contact Officer	Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk
Main consultees	Walsall Council
Date Item to be considered	30 March 2022
Project Name	Dudley Advanced Construction Centre
Key Decision to be considered	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley College, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Dudley Advanced Construction Centre project with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year. Note that change request relates to a change in outputs
Date first entered into the plan	06 April 2021
Contact Officer	Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk
Main consultees	Walsall Council
Date Item to be considered	27 April 2022
Project Name	Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills
Key Decision to be considered	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with the University of Wolverhampton, to deliver the Local

Date first entered into the plan	Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills (ECMS) project with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.
Contact Officer	Note that change request relates to a change in outputs
Main consultees	06 September 2021
	Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk
	Walsall Council
Date Item to be considered	27 April 2022

Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) Programme changes

Project Name	Sandwell Housing Gap Funding
Key Decision to be considered	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council, to deliver the Land & Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Sandwell Housing Gap Funding project with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.
Date first entered into the plan	10 January 2022
Contact Officer	Tony McGovern Tony.McGovern@sandwell.gov.uk
Main consultees	Sandwell Council
Date Item to be considered	30 March 2022
Project Name	Globe House, Walsall
Key Decision to be considered	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Globe Property Limited, to deliver the Land & Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Globe House project with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.
Date first entered into the plan	06 December 2021
Contact Officer	Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk
Main consultees	Walsall Council

Date Item to be considered 30 March 2022

Black Country Digital Fund

Project Name **Black Country Digital Strategy**

Key Decision to be considered Approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd to increase its funding allocation to further develop the Black Country Digital Strategy, initially funded from the Growing Places revenue budget, and where applicable and eligible, recharged to the capital Black Country Digital Fund.

Date first entered into the plan 7 February 2022
Contact Officer Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk
Main consultees Walsall Council

Date Item to be considered 27 April 2022

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

RE: CAMHS

Purpose

To provide a response to questions raised at the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12th October 2021.

Report

1. Can we identify how many children that we have prevented from attending A & E by coming into CAMHS.

During the period of January 2021 to January 2022 the Walsall Crisis Team have seen 203 young people for priority first assessments, which gives an indication of the number of young people who have been potentially diverted from A&E at the Manor Hospital. This would be approximately 30% of the total number of young people assessed by the Walsall Crisis Team.

2. First appointment - have we breached the 18 weeks

During the period of January 2021 to January 2022 we have provided exactly 1000 first assessments to young people. The average wait for a first assessment was 12 weeks therefore we can confirm we have remained within the time period for first assessments.

3. How many children are waiting for a second appointment and how long is the longest wait.

We currently have 448 young people waiting for treatment with the longest wait being 22 months. The number of young people awaiting treatment has more than doubled since the start of the pandemic. We are working hard to try to address the waits as well as conducting extensive caseload reviews in an attempt to allocate cases as quickly as possible.

4. 24/7 helpline and its use/take up.

Unfortunately I am unable to provide a response for this question currently. The data from the telephone helpline is held on an app which we will have to try to source separately from a different system.

5. The trust retention for staff – what percentage this is at.

The turnover rate is currently at 15.30% The staff vacancy rate across the CYP & Families division currently sits at 10.07%. Post pandemic recruitment has become increasingly difficult with less people applying for new posts.

6. The names of all schools that the Mental Health Support Teams in Schools (Reflexions) are involved in (in the four areas please)

Walsall	Dudley	Sandwell	Wolverhampton
Chuckery Primary School	Hawbush Primary	The Phoenix Collegiate	Castlecroft Primary School
Bluecoat Federation inc Bluecoat Infants Bluecoat Juniors	Wrens Nest Primary	Bristnall Hall Academy	Uplands Primary School
Delves Federation inc Delves Infants Delves Juniors	Jessons Primary	Harvills Hawthorn Primary School	The King's CE School
Shortheath Federation inc Lane Head Nursery Rosedale infants Shortheath Juniors	St Mary's RC Primary	Old Park Primary School	Woodthorne Primary School
The Ladder School	Queen Victoria Primary	Brickhouse Primary School	Smestow School
Shelfield Ormiston Academy	Ellowes Hall	Ormiston Forge Academy	St Anthony's Catholic Primary Academy
Grace Academy	St James Academy	Timbertree Academy	St Michael's Primary School
Phoenix Academy	Link Academy	Ferndale Primary School	St Judes CofE Primary School
Ryders Hayes Primary School	Pegasus Academy	Springfield Primary School	St Edmund's Catholic Academy
Lower Farm Primary School	Beacon Hill Academy	Westminster School	Oak Meadow Primary School
Fibbersley Park Primary School	Old Swinford Hospital School	Hargate Primary School	Ormiston New Academy
Pheasey Park Farm Primary	Cherry Tree Short Stay School	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	Wednesfield High Academy
Cooper & Jordan Primary School	Dudley College	Crocketts Community Primary School	Perry Hall Primary School
	Sycamore Short Stay School	Perryfields High School	Rakegate Primary School
	Netherton CoFE School	Virtual School	Elston Hall Primary School
	Thorns Primary	Langley Primary School	Christ Church CofE Junior School
	Bromley Pensnett	George Salter Academy	
	Priory Primary School	Albright Education Centre	
	Dingle Community Primary School	Lodge Primary School	
	St Marks CofE Primary School	Galton Valley Primary School	

	Brockmoor Primary School	Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust / Tameside Primary Academy	
	Rufford Primary School	The Holy Trinity	
	Wallbrook Primary School	Tameside Primary School	
	Dormston School	St James CE Primary School	
	Windsor High School	Wodensborough Ormiston Academy	
	Bishop Milner Catholic College	Lightwoods	
	The Kingswinford School & Science College	Perryfields Primary School	
	The Sutton School & Specialist College	Summerhill Primary School	
		Jubilee Park Academy	
		Joseph Turner Primary School	
		Health Futures UTC	
		Q3 Academy Great Barr	
		Glebefields Primary School	
		Tivdale Hall Primary	
		Hall Green Primary School	

We are also finalising the list of schools we will be working in collaboration with for wave 6 of the Mental Health in Schools model, in Walsall we are aiming to work with a further six secondary schools/academies as well as more primary schools across the region. Names of schools can be provided once they are agreed.

7. Bench marking Information

Due to the pandemic there has been no CAMHS benchmarking completed and therefore I am unable to provide any information.

Author

Zoe Gilbert
CAMHS Service Development Lead
Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust