

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2021 AT 10:00 HOURS
IN ON-LINE MEETING, MICROSOFT TEAMS**

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

3 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies.

4 ELECTION OF A DEPUTY CHAIR

Item Description

5 ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER

1 - 22

To confirm the notes of the 9 December 2020 meeting and note the action tracker.

6 PREPARATION FOR ADULthood

23 - 40

Dionne McAndrews, AD, Children's Trust and John Williams, AD, Adult Social Care in attendance.

7 **ATTENDANCE AND EXCLUSIONS**

Lisa Fraser, AD Education and Early Years and Alan Michell, Head of School Admissions and Fair Access in attendance.

8 **WORK PROGRAMME**

For discussion.

9 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 03 March 2021 at 1000 hours via an online meeting.

10 **REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)**

To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).

11 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chairman are matters of urgency.

12 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Chairman to move:-

'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chairman jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (O&S) COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1000 hours on Wednesday, 9th December 2020, Online Meeting

Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Kath Scott (Chair)

Councillors: Mohammed Aikhlaq, Barbara Dring, Charlotte Hodiola, Kerry Jenkins, Chaudhry Rashid and Alex Yip

Other Voting Representatives: Rabia Shami, Parent Governor Representative and Sarah Smith, Church of England Diocese Representative

Also Present:

Councillor Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing

Dr Tim O'Neill, Director, Education and Skills

Andrew Christie, Chair, Children's Trust

Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Children's Trust

Simon Cross, Business Manager, Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP)

Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

Penny Thompson, Independent Chair, BSCP

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq declared an interest as a Director at Leigh Multi Academy Trust.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Omar Hanif, Parent Governor Representative and Adam Hardy, Roman Catholic Diocese Representative.

4. ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER

(See documents 1 and 2).

The Chair requested that Dr Tim O'Neill, Director, Education and Skills ensures his Directorate addresses the outstanding actions contained within the action tracker.

RESOLVED

The action notes of the 28th October 2020 were agreed, and the action tracker was noted. Also, the Director for Education and Skills to ensure his Directorate addresses the outstanding actions contained within the action tracker.

5. CHILDREN'S TRUST UPDATE

(See document No. 3).

The Chair welcomed Andrew Christie, Chair and Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Children's Trust to the meeting and informed Members that the last annual update from the Children's Trust had been given on the 9th October 2019.

Andrew Christie reflected that he had first met with Overview and Scrutiny in Birmingham approximately five years ago and it has been a long road of recovery and improvement for Children's Social Care Services. He acknowledged that there is still some way to go and this is a helpful point to reflect on progress to date.

Members were reminded that three years ago the Council successfully established the Trust as a wholly owned organisation and it should be noted that not every local authority manages to set their Trust up in a way that enables it to operate smoothly from day one, which Birmingham managed to do. At the time he gave assurances to O&S that they would still be able to properly hold the Trust to account for its performance and, three years on, the Trust is continuing to be held to account by O&S.

Andrew Christie informed Members that two years ago the last full Ofsted inspection made the judgement of 'requires improvement'. This was the first time in more than a decade that this had been achieved. The next aim is to achieve a 'good' judgement. It was suggested that O&S may wish to discuss what needs to be done to achieve that objective and what the risks to this may be. It is anticipated that the inspection is possibly a year or so away.

Appended to the papers are the performance report, the report pertaining to the focused visit (which serves as a useful marker on the progress being made) and the third-year business plan. They need to review the progress that is being made against the targets that were set and to be clear about what the learning is from this year. This includes the terrible impact of Covid, the findings from the recent inspection of the Youth Offending Service and the review of progress on partnership arrangements. Significant progress has been made on the partnership arrangements, partly due to responding to the pandemic crisis, and the leadership of the Council was acknowledged.

The Chair of the Trust commented that key risks include: the long-term impacts on families due to Covid, which are not yet fully understood; big issues around staff recruitment and retention, and the increasing demand pressures on the service.

Andy Couldrick presented the paper and highlighted that to respond to the pandemic the Trust had invested in equipment for staff, so they can access the systems they need and they supported them working from home, this includes staff having contact with their managers and their peers. The quality of supervision has been a focus during the pandemic and staff have largely felt well supported. This assertion could be evidenced by the survey they undertook in the Summer, whereby they had a 65% response rate with staff feeling positively engaged and well supported.

It was highlighted that after the pandemic the Trust will have a more agile effective workforce rather than a fully office-based workforce. Members were informed that staff continued to do face to face visits where needed and remote visits also worked well, with some children and families preferring these. A risk assessment was done for every family. They monitored very closely how many of their vulnerable children were attending school and during the lockdown referrals decreased because schools are a key driver for these. Now that schools have re-opened, they have received a higher rate of referrals than this time last year.

They have worked hard with their partners and agencies and some of these worked in a totally remote way. They have reached a position whereby there is an agreed set of standards, this includes establishing the families and children that need regular face to face contact.

The Trust created a resource hub in one of their buildings that provided food and supplies and some level of interpersonal support to c.1,500 families. Additionally, they were part of the Council's response and opened early help hubs across the city in 10 localities and 7,000 families have received some form of support. The key issues that have emerged include domestic abuse, emotional neglect and concerns about the emotional and mental health of children and young people. As well as the early help service the Trust has online support for mental health and they distributed grants.

Members were informed that the Trust emerged from the first lockdown intact in relation to service delivery and they recognised that they had asked staff to put themselves at risk, which they did. From day one they managed to supply PPE and that wasn't the case for many other local authorities in the country.

It is highlighted that the Trust didn't stand still, rather they continued to extend and expand services, offering new delivery mechanisms that assisted vulnerable children to safely stay within their families.

They also set-up the EmpowerU Hub, which is a dedicated hub with a focus on children at risk of exploitation, there is strong partnership work, in particular with West Midlands Police, and it is starting to get real traction. They are also working with colleagues in Health and the Education and Skills Directorate to build up the multidisciplinary approach.

The following were among the main points raised during the discussion with Members:

- Members questioned whether KPI 14 (average caseload of qualified social workers) and KPI 15 (% of social workers who have had supervision (in month)) impacted on KPI 13 (% of agency social workers (including team managers)). It was confirmed there is strong interdependency. The Trust has a number of vacancies and recruiting social workers in the West Midlands is a key risk and it was acknowledged that they can improve their marketing offer and presence in the market. This includes social worker's caseloads being at a manageable level, social workers being well supported and having clear development process including learning, training and progression so that staff will be more likely to stay. The council may need to assist with some of this, for example there are equal pay issues.
- It is recognised that staff is their biggest significant asset and therefore their biggest significant risk. A fundamental review will be undertaken, as this is a complex picture and within 2 -3 months there will be a report to the Board. The Trust may need to enter discussions with the Council regarding terms and conditions etc. It was suggested that the Committee may wish to have sight of the progress and the Chair requested that the Committee have sight of the report.
- Members commended and acknowledged the risks that staff put themselves in.
- Members were informed there were outstanding examples of what schools did during the first lockdown to maintain regular contact with vulnerable children, such as providing food parcels and helping with mental health. This was not, however, universal across the 450 schools in Birmingham.
- There was a reduction in referrals from March to July and it increased since schools went back. However, the Trust did not have a huge spike in referrals when schools went back, rather they had a steady increase, unlike other areas. It was felt that this was avoided due to maintaining contact with vulnerable children and families.
- The Trust has a narrow picture when it comes to bereavement and emotional and mental health, as it needs to be remembered that they provide a service that works with children referred to them as a result of concerns of risk of harm. However, they sense that bereavement is an increasing issue and will have affected a number of children. Also, there are a lot of low level emotional and mental health challenges young people are living with and schools are trying to help address these. The Children's Partnership, of which the Trust is a part, are trying to shape services to capture any unmet needs.
- The Trust distributed 3,500 laptops to vulnerable children so they can access learning when schools were closed.
- The Trust, in Year 2, overspent its budget by £7m (3.5%) and it has most recently reported a c.£1m overspend, which nationally is a good position as the average overspend across England in 2019/20 is reported at 9%.

- Members were informed that the Trust worked hard to understand what demand looks like. However, the demand because of Covid is an unknown risk. When the Trust went live the finances was modelled on providing care for 1,600, however this was at 1,800 when the Trust went live. The modelling they undertook included their work and programmes that were about building strength and capacity within families and the Trust should be able to maintain care that is below statistical neighbours and core cities. However, there has been exponential growth in demand, and this is hard to quantify. Although they constantly drill down on demand and supply of care. Work includes better targeted early help and growing the number of inhouse foster carers. If they get the financial settlement they have requested then the Trust can live within its means.
- Some KPI targets have been increased rather than remaining static and Cllr Yip encouraged the Trust to increase targets year on year. Members were informed that the Trust produces an annual summary of the KPIs, and this can be made available for Members. It was noted that they are always within tolerance and they have c. 150 performance indicators. They also have a system that allows them to access performance information accurately in real time. Although they do not necessarily chase individual targets but rather drill down on the quality.
- As a snapshot today there are about 80 – 85 agency social workers employed across the Trust, which is about 13% and lower than statistical neighbours. They are carrying c. 80 – 90 vacancies that they cannot fill with agency or permanent staff. Work to address this includes improving marketing, recruitment, building a pipeline of new recruits and career development and career progression etc.
- Page 41 refers to closely monitoring supervision and reviewing supervision policy and there is mention of holding a managers' webinar in December 2020 regarding reflective practice. It was questioned whether they should already be doing this. Andy Couldrick confirmed that this is more of a reminder and they are talking to managers regarding the tools and support available in the context that this is harder to do remotely, as it is acknowledged that human contact is harder to transact through a screen and they are looking at how this can be the best it can be. Andrew Christie commented that reflective skills are extremely difficult, and it is about helping managers to practice and rehearse skills and having the opportunity of getting support from senior leaders. Andy Couldrick highlighted that they had commissioned a bespoke three-day programme exploring practice supervisors needing to act as a container and a reflector and they will continue to roll this out and the model is working well.
- Whether the targets are good enough to indicate if they are on target to be judged as 'good' by Ofsted was questioned. Members were informed that Ofsted will pay considerably less attention to PIs than detailed analysis of case work and talking to and testing social workers on their cases, rather they

will use the PIs to triangulate this. Also, Ofsted will be interested in the areas of concern they highlighted at the last inspection.

- The data for first time entrants to the youth justice system was requested and the response was that this comes late from the Youth Justice Board and the figure continues to fall. However, following the inspection there are significant improvements they are driving through, and it was highlighted that there seemed to have been an overreliance on KPI's lulling them into a false sense of security and they did not drill down on the quality of practice.
- It was queried whether there was learning from partners, such as the Police regarding fast tracking recruitment and retraining. It was acknowledged there is a real challenge that is contradictory, in that often good social workers are promoted to become managers when maybe their skills set is such that they should remain a social worker rather than a manager, although managers need to have social worker experience. Therefore, there is a need to improve the offer for experienced social workers so they are not compelled to go into manager roles, and they will include this in their root and branch review. They will also look at their local pool of talent, such as family support workers who wish to go into social work. It was acknowledged there currently are not sufficient pathways for those types of recruits.
- The stability of relying on small voluntary organisations to support children with mental health, emotional neglect, and domestic abuse was queried. Members were informed that this is not currently robust and stable. The Trust is one of the partners, with the council being the commissioner. They established a footprint on which they can build service delivery in a more stable way. At the first sign of worry or concern a parent knows they can talk to school and initial provision can be put in. If this is not enough then they can draw in more targeted support like Forward Thinking Birmingham. This was a crisis response to a pandemic and services need to be layered at a local level. The Chair suggested that the Committee may want an update on this next year.
- Collectively we need to do better on Corporate Parenting, and the offer to children in care and care leavers is not as strong as it should be. Four examples are highlighted in the paper where energy could be focused. The Trust's Chief Executive's view is that the Corporate Parenting Board could widen political representation, owning and promoting that responsibility. Collectively there is more we can do around work opportunities, apprenticeships and secondments. They have seven apprenticeships in the Trust, and one has got a position elsewhere because of their apprenticeship. The notion should be "getting a job in the family firm", and where the Council is the parent this includes having a mentoring and apprenticeship offer to our children in care within the Council, so they will be bringing proposals on this to Council in the future.
- This links to the accommodation and the housing offer - KPI 10 (% YTD care leavers in suitable accommodation (19-21) and giving children in care and care leavers priority. The housing pathway is strong in Birmingham but the

choice for young people is limited due to the housing challenges the Council faces. These young people are special because they are ours and we should be offering them special treatment. The Trust and the Council are undertaking a piece of work in relation to developing the quality of the offer as the whole system needs to improve and it was suggested that the Committee could assist with this. If we do it well this will create a strong mandate to go to Police and Health colleagues and inform them of what we are doing and ask what they are doing to support the city's care leavers.

- Members highlighted that Lambeth Council had 18 care leavers on paid placements in the civil service starting early next year, through a care leaver internship scheme and queried whether we were or could do something like this. Members were informed that we have had young people gain placement on the civil service apprenticeship scheme and they had a mixed experience on it. However, there are a lot of things we could replicate.
- There had previously been a big focus on corporate parenting amongst Members and it was suggested the Committee undertake a specific piece of work next year to identify what needs to be done and what the Council can and should be doing. The Chair agreed to a dedicated piece of joint work with the Corporate Parenting Board, the Committee, working with the Trust, Corporate Parenting Team and Birmingham Children's Partnership.
- In relation to how best to engage Members as corporate parents, the Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing highlighted that she had met with Jake Shaw (RAP and Corporate Parenting head of service) and Natalie Loon, (Corporate Parenting Manager) and is happy to come back and report on progress. The Chair requested an update on the conversation the Cabinet Member referenced, and the commitments that were made so the Committee do not duplicate work. The Cabinet Member suggested the best time to report back maybe in the spring 2021 after it is discussed at the Corporate Parenting Board.
- Members were informed that the Trust are working hard with the Council on their financial position and they understand that it is hard for the Council to give a three-year position when they are bound by one-year settlements from Government. The intention of the Trust is to live within their means notwithstanding unanticipated demand pressures and they will need to have a contractual mechanism for growth outside the parameters.
- In 2023 the first term of the contract comes to end and there will need to be decision making processes that include the DfE, Trust and Council. If the Trust continues to perform well, with this being confirmed by Ofsted and they deliver value for money, then the Trust's ambition is to make this an easy decision to make.
- Key risks are around financial stability and demand as we emerge from the pandemic, and the workforce and the work they need to do as a Trust and with the Council to build and maintain a sustainable, high performing and highly motivated workforce.

- Andrew Christie acknowledged that the Council has already made some additional provision that is extremely welcome and a sign of the council's commitment to services for vulnerable children, at a time when this is very difficult for the Council. They are delicately poised at what is hoped is the conclusion of the discussions. Andrew Christie's understanding is that in relation to the settlement the Government did announce an extension of the social care grant of about 20% - 30% additional provision for both children's and adults' social care that is not ringfenced, so the Council can make its own decisions as to how it allocates it.
- Members were reminded that children's social services are still subject to intervention and Andrew Christie is still the Secretary of State's appointment and represents the intervention on behalf of the Government. Andrew stated that he is impressed by challenge scrutiny provides and he will report again to Secretary of State in the new year on the progress made.
- A formal answer in relation to the allocation of the additional non ringfenced 25% social care grant from Government was requested. Andy Couldrick confirmed that not all the social care grant allocated was spent on social care, although the initial investment in the Trust came from that source. No decisions have been reached on the extensions and the increase in the social care grant. Also, because it is not ringfenced it will be part of the sum available to support the Council in setting its budget for next year. The Cabinet Member agreed to provide a briefing paper on the additional funding from the Government, budget outline, priorities going forward and the long-term contractual negotiation regarding funding for the Trust.

Andrew Christie emphasised that there are a lot of groups deserving of praise during the pandemic. However, on behalf of the Trust, foster carers deserve a particular mention for how they coped during the pandemic and this was echoed by the Committee.

Drawing the discussion to a close the Chair thanked Andrew Christie and Andy Couldrick for attending and for acknowledging the commitment of the Committee to the Children's Trust and the children in our city.

RESOLVED

The committee noted the update and requested the following:

- The report to the Children's Trust Board resulting from fundamental review regarding the workforce.
- The annual summary of the KPIs.
- An update next year on the development of the footprint as a response to the pandemic to provide support to children with mental health, emotional neglect, domestic abuse (early help hubs).
- The Cabinet Member to report back on the conversations and commitments made in relation to how best to engage Members as corporate parents. It

was suggested the best time to report back would probably be in the spring next year after it had been discussed by the Corporate Parenting Board.

- The Cabinet Member agreed to provide a briefing paper on the additional funding from the Government, budget outline, priorities going forward and the long-term contractual negotiation regarding funding for the Trust.
- The Chair agreed to a dedicated piece of joint work with the Corporate Parenting Board, the Committee, working with the Trust, Corporate Parenting Team and Birmingham Children's Partnership.

6. BIRMINGHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP (BSCP)

(See documents No. 4 & 5).

The Chair welcomed Penny Thompson, Independent Chair, BSCP and Simon Cross, Business Manager and informed Members that they had received the last annual update at their 11th September 2019 committee meeting.

Penny Thompson introduced the item and informed Members that her report is a personal accountability report that is produced immediately after the end of the financial year and because it's a personal and not a statistical one it can be produced in a timely fashion. The annual report has the statistical analysis and detailed functioning arrangements.

Members were informed that Penny had been in the role for five years and her role is to convene partners to scrutinise, offer support and challenge and promote learning. This is Penny's fourth accountability report and she has seen tremendous change and quite a lot of churn.

The Partnership priorities are very much about improving leadership, improving practice, developing a response to contextual safeguarding and ensuring the new arrangements for safeguarding following the Wood review are working well. Both reports give testimony to this.

Although the reports are about last year it would be remiss not to make reference to the pandemic and the way all partners have responded to the challenge. There have been some upsides to the pandemic, people have responded magnificently and moved seamlessly to the virtual world and the Independent Chair wishes to recognise this.

The development of Children's Partnership that started last year has been incredibly important and Penny is pleased to play a part in this.

Simon Cross highlighted that this is the first year of the new partnership arrangements that saw the splitting of child deaths being a statutory duty for the local authority and the CCG. The real changes have been with the Police and Council and the CCG, and particularly for Birmingham the Children's Trust being the four leaders of the safeguarding arrangements for the city and how this has been brought together in this first year.

The following were among the main points raised during the discussion:

- Andy Couldrick commented that the Trust is one of the associate safeguarding partners, with the legal partners being the NHS, Police and Local Authority. He reflected that the Partnership has gone from strength to strength and provides a forum for both collaboration and challenge and is a stronger set of arrangements than when he joined. Work on the practice reviews and rapid reviews have been exemplary and picked up by partnerships all over the country.
- The Independent Chair thanked and recognised the work of the team that supports the safeguarding arrangements and how they have responded to the change in working conditions due to the pandemic.
- Cllr Kath Scott noted that the strong leadership is evident within the reports as is the continuous improvement and working relationships.
- Members noted it was worth highlighting and acknowledging some of the challenges we face, such as SEND, re-offending rates and the courts etc. Page 112 onwards of the pack (page 6 of the BSCP annual report) provides a RAG rating rather than how the progress will be taken forward into future years and more detail, something similar to what the Children's Trust produces on their targets and range was requested. The Independent Chair advised that the Partnership is all about relationships and forging common purpose and they try to be as open and transparent as they can be. An offline conversation about what Members might want to see in relation to the KPI details may be appropriate. Simon Cross informed Members that they are at the stage now of redrafting the business improvement plan that expires in April 2021. They set a business plan for two years.
- Penny Thompson highlighted that key is convening organisations and forging common purpose to enable practice to be as good as it can be and learn from situations where children are harmed. Learning and improving practice is a key element. The partnership priorities reflect this and two of the priorities are about leadership and partnership and this has developed tremendously. Although they are not complacent, and it is about relationships and forging common purpose and being committed to the same outcomes.
- The next focus is about practice, one of the things undertaken is the Annual Safeguarding Practitioners Conference on 'Contextual Safeguarding'. This has a red RAG rating. However, this conference has now happened virtually in November. This virtual conference had an impact on far more people and they have learnt that when they return to doing a live 'face to face' conference they will have provision for virtual connectiveness due to the numbers being far greater for those being able to access the workshops. Practice is very important, and the Practice Forum meets regularly to make sure that they are connecting to practice.
- The third priority is about developing a response contextual safeguarding and the hub has been developed and Penny Thompson highlighted that the Manager leading on this is working closely with partners and is inspirational.

- The fourth priority is about making the new arrangements effective and they are not complacent. They have reviewed how the new arrangements are working and although they are good, they have made some small changes, building on the progress that has been made. They very much want to see Children's Social Services being recognised as 'good' and they are pleased as to how partners work together, and this is very influential on that judgement. The last time the inspectors came in there was some comments about the quality of partnership working and it is hoped that when they return for the full inspection that they will see evidence of really effective partnership working.

Cllr Scott concluded that the impact of the partnership is evident and Penny Thompson thanked the Committee for its interest and commented that there is no complacency but absolute commitment to continue with our partnership working to build on the strengths and keep learning and supporting practice.

The Independent Chair would also like to recognise foster carers and all front line practitioners and operational managers, and the work on early help and the hubs that have been developed is inspiring and it need to be recognised during the pandemic that not having a spike in referrals demonstrates connectedness.

There are concerns about poverty and the Children's Partnership has an operational group led by the Trust's Director of Practice and that group has done tremendous work over the last few months ensuring a good response is made to those out in communities. Penny Thompson also thanked the Trust and the support they provide, and Cllr Scott echoed this.

RESOLVED

- The Committee noted the update.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No. 6).

The Chair advised that the work programme will be updated to take into account the discussion today.

RESOLVED

- The committee noted the work programme.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 1000 hours via an online meeting.

9. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

None.

10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

11. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 12.00 hours.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2020-21

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
17 Jul 2020	SEND Home to School Transport Update	SEND Dashboard	E-mailed Members the information on 25 th August 2020.
		Details regarding SEND Youth Forum	E-mailed Members the information on 25 th August 2020.
		WSoA Action Plan and Progress	E-mailed Members 16 th September 2020 & to be discussed at the October 2020 meeting.
		A simple snapshot showing what the council has contracted for against what is being delivered.	Daily calculations are assessed in relation to route cancelations. For a period of 3 weeks at the beginning of the Autumn Term, 4 % of cancelations related to one operator. Once remedial action was put into place, the majority of cancelled route have been in relation to Covid isolation issues.
17 Jul 2020	Work Programme Discussion	A short report be provided to the scrutiny office to be circulated to members on any re-start issues with Home to School Transport following the return to school in September.	<p>The Chief Executive has commissioned Ernst & Young to undertake this task. Their brief is to review the service and provide recommendations for the medium to longer term. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewing the circumstances that led to the service failures in the run up to and at the start of term; • a critical assessment of the improvement planning arrangements; • their recommendations about how those arrangements need to be strengthened; • and a transparent road map for service recovery and improvement with clear milestones and dependencies highlighted. <p>To this end, they will produce a report that answers the points above, which will form the basis of an improvement</p>

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2020-21

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
			programme that the council will take forward. This programme will specify the resources required as well as map all necessary dependencies. This report will be presented to the relevant council committee to ensure complete transparency.
16 Sep 2020	Covid-19 Impact on Schools and Preparations for Return to School in September 2020	Regular updates on the school's inability of staff and pupils to access Covid-19 tests.	Education and Skills officers do not have the information for all the 443 schools in relation to the inability of staff and pupils to access Covid-19 tests.
		The number of children and teachers isolating.	As at 18.11.20 the numbers of isolating pupils and teachers/teaching assistants were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28,818 pupils are currently isolating, almost 25k of which are as a result of a contact within the setting. • 889 teachers and 987 teaching assistants are currently isolating. As at 25.11.20: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26,408 pupils are isolating, a reduction from the numbers earlier in the week. • Teachers – 849 • Teaching assistants - 993
		The number of school admission appeals this year and the projection for 2021.	E-mailed to Members on the 5 th November 2020 and requested information on children with SEND and Children in Care. This was e-mailed on the 10 th November 2020.
		The presentation on online learning.	E-mailed to Members on the 17 th September 2020.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2020-21

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
		Dr Tim O'Neill undertook to take back the decision to not issue additional PPE to City of Birmingham School (COBS).	E-mailed information to Members on the 2 nd November 2020.
		A letter to be sent to the Cabinet Member regarding Member's concerns that schools are being re-charged for the free school meals voucher scheme.	Letter sent on 25 th September 2020 and response received from Cllr Francis on 1 st October 2020.
16 Sep 2020	SEND Response to Covid	Officers to check and report back on the answer in C8 written question regarding post 16 and those that are out of time.	E-mailed information to Members on the 22 nd September 2020.
		A report on children's with SEND needs not being met in schools because of capacity and Covid.	Emailed Members the information on 28 th October 2020.
		A report on the communications and problems that occurred with the new on-line system for bus passes over the summer.	<p>The council's target for processing bus passes is 20 working days from receipt of the bus pass. In September the council failed to meet this target.</p> <p>The service has put in place additional capacity to administer the process within 20 working days and are currently dealing with the backlog with the aim for this to be completed by the end of November.</p> <p>The council have noted that the on-line system is only part developed. Further work has been escalated, to ensure that the on-line system is fully operational, providing the service with a mapping system and measuring tool for a walking route which will allow for more automated decisions.</p>
		A report on DBS compliance to be provided.	The Chief Executive has commissioned an investigation.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2020-21

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
			To this end, a report will be issued and presented to the relevant council committee to ensure complete transparency.
		A report on how schools notify problems with home to school transport to the Council.	Weekly calls are undertaken with special schools, providing an overview of the failures from providers. The returns are reported to the team lead for safeguarding and compliance and form part of the quality assurance programme, alongside the work of the compliance officers who undertake site visits.
16 Sep 2020	Other Urgent Business	An informal meeting of the committee to be arranged to discuss the outcomes of the home to school transport inquiry.	Held this on the 16 th October 2020.
28 Oct 2020	SEND WSOA Update	Scrutiny to be kept updated on the self-assessments.	
		Dr Tim O'Neill will look at what the Local Offer does and doesn't say in relation to SENDIASS and the advertising of the service and report back.	The new BCC Local Offer website is on track to being completed by 30th November 2020 – the agreed deadline. It has been co-produced with the PCF. Information about SENDIASS can be found within the Parents and Carers section of the website: https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/parents-and-carers/parent-carer-services/
		An update and overview of the commissioning piece of work in relation to capacity and reach and SENDIASS.	Compliance assessment against the minimums standards has been undertaken. Consultation to go out to parents/ carers, CYP and professionals for their thoughts on the service. Best practice review underway. Soft market test to be started to look at how the market would respond should the decision

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2020-21

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
		<p>An overview of the relationships and how families are benefitting from the Parent Link Service and how this links to the CCG, to ensure health services are delivered to children and the school networks and the bridging team.</p>	<p>be made to externalise the service following an options appraisal.</p> <p>Parent Link Officers work alongside all agencies to seek a resolution, improving the outcomes for the child/young person. The team consists of one team coordinator, and 5 Parent Link Officers. The service has successfully recruited a 6th member of the team who will start in November so that the service will work in line with the new Locality model and each locality will have a designated Parent Link Officer. The calls are received through the contact line and are primarily to provide information and to signpost. Where appropriate the caller can be signposted to a Parent Link Officer or a link professional. The themes for the referrals received are primarily linked to requests for an EHCP assessment, school placements, general advice and guidance.</p> <p>At the moment cases are assigned to the appropriate officer according to their area of expertise; one officer has experience of working in SEND and Inclusion with parents and families and within SENAR; one has experience of working with Post 16 students and counselling, particularly within that age range, one officer has experience of supporting families at the point of diagnosis in a multi-agency environment and the other two officers have experience working within an education environment, supporting young people and families. Requests for information are sent to Link Advisors who are professionals</p>

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2020-21

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
			<p>working within the locality and have knowledge of the young person/school/setting.</p> <p>The Parent Link Coordinator is part of Multi-Agency Decision Making Groups for EHCP decisions on assessment & issue and liaises specifically with a Community Speech & Language Therapist and Occupational Therapist around the provision of monthly webinars for parents.</p>
		<p>Information on the remedial action plan that is being developed regarding the waiting times for therapies. This is to include how it works and builds capacity, so the system has the confidence and expertise at all levels to support children and this is to include the health input. Rachel O'Connor is happy to attend a future committee meeting to discuss this item with Birmingham Community Healthcare (BCHC).</p>	<p>As a starting point to restarting this service there were 19 cases</p> <p>4 (approx. 20%) are now closed:</p> <p>2 changed their mind and went to appeal instead of through mediation</p> <p>1 is inappropriate for mediation as it is a complex social care case</p> <p>1 was closed as we worked with family to improve</p> <p>Of the 19 cases</p> <p>15 are for referral to assess (80%)</p> <p>2 are for refusal to issue (10%)</p> <p>2 are about final content (10%)</p> <p>75% of requested mediation is from Kids, 15% is from SEN Mediation and 10% is from Prime Resolutions</p>
		<p>Confirmation as to whether the refreshed SEND Strategy went to Cabinet.</p>	

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2020-21

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
		Officers to check whether the completed baseline of SEND services can be shared with the Committee.	
		Details on the reduction of mediations including figures, reasons and comparative data.	
		Alan Michell to be invited to a meeting to cover school absence and exclusions and this is to include children with SEND and the interplay between the different teams.	Programmed for the 20 th January 2021 committee meeting.
		The SEND Improvement Board reports to be sent to scrutiny on a monthly basis.	
		The committee to have regular updates on progress and the leadership teams / forums.	Marie Dobson to action.
		The Chair requested the committee be forwarded copies of the minutes from the self reflecting meeting.	Members e-mailed the Family Support Strategic Management Meetings paper on the 17 th November 2020.
		Clarity on how parents and carers are elected onto the Parent Carer Forum.	
28 Oct 2020	Youth Service	Update on the early help and prevention strategy and how the Youth Service fit into this vision.	
		What portion, if any, of the Government's Covid support money was allocated to the Youth Service?	

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2020-21

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
		Timeline and plan for the Commonwealth Games proposals, including the legacy.	
		The Youth Service to be invited back in the Spring and the Community Safety Partnership to be invited to the Committee (Cllr Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities).	
28 Oct 2020	Other Urgent Business	Exclusions to be added to the work programme.	Programmed for the 20 th January 2021 committee meeting.
9 Dec 2020	Action Notes & Action Tracker	The Director for Education and Skills to ensure his Directorate addresses the outstanding actions contained within the action tracker.	
9 Dec 2020	Children's Trust Update	The report to the Children's Trust Board resulting from fundamental review regarding the workforce.	
		The annual summary of the KPIs.	
		An update next year on the development of the footprint as a response to the pandemic to provide support to children with mental health, emotional neglect, domestic abuse (early help hubs).	
		The Cabinet Member to report back on the conversations and commitments made in relation to how best to engage Members as corporate parents. It was suggested the best time to report back would probably be in the spring next year	

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2020-21

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
		after it had been discussed by the Corporate Parenting Board.	
		The Cabinet Member agreed to provide a briefing paper on the additional funding from the Government, budget outline, priorities going forward and the long-term contractual negotiation regarding funding for the Trust.	

From:	Dionne McAndrew, John Williams and Caroline Naven
Subject:	Preparation for Adulthood Proof of Concept
Document Purpose:	To provide the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a progress update.
Date:	17th of December 2020

1. Summary of work – December Update

Work Strand	Summary of Work/Progress
Strategic Context	<p>The Birmingham Children's Partnership Business Case, "Our city – investing in Children and Family Services," was agreed at the end of March 2020.</p> <p>The proposal in the Business Case was to extend funding for young people who are transitioning from children to adult services based on a two year proof of concept. This is a unique model including an integrated Transitions Team working across health, education and social care (children and adults), a Transitions Assessment and Wellbeing Hub (including for those who may not be eligible for statutory services) and a Vulnerable Adults Team supporting young adults at risk. Benefits include starting the planning for transition at the age of 14, better outcomes for young people linked to education, accommodation, health, employment, friendships/community connections, and better financial management and use of resources.</p> <p>In addition, the Proof of Concept looks to test and grow a whole system life course approach in Birmingham which is focussed on the commissioning and delivery of new innovative integrated models of support that are defined by outcomes for the young person and family rather than by age and diagnosis.</p> <p>We have ability as part of the programme to change whole system leadership and delivery. This will be key to the continuation of the programme post March 2020. We aim to encourage more radical thinking such as pooled budgets</p>

Work Strand	Summary of Work/Progress
	<p>which has the potential to smooth a young person's transition to adulthood as well as achieving cost savings across the system.</p> <p>By having a whole system approach, our aim is to prevent young people hitting parts of the system further down the line. We also aim to reduce the number of agencies working with the young person and therefore reducing the number of times they need to share their experiences with professionals. Consultation with our young people and families/carers highlights duplication of effort and numerous assessments often capturing similar information. We aim to provide a system that is easier for families and agencies to navigate.</p> <p>The approach is person centre, very much putting the young person and families/carers at the heart of what we do. We co-design and deliver services with our citizens e.g. all staff recruited to the service were interviewed by a panel of professionals as well as young people from the Rights & Participation Service. All marketing materials for young people are being co-produced with young people.</p> <p>Our model is unique and one which we believe is ground-breaking and has the potential to be rolled out both locally and nationally.</p> <p>A Communications and Engagement Plan captures the various approaches to marketing this new service. At the beginning of August, the Team presented the new offer to existing partnership meetings. Leaflets for professionals have been developed and we are in the process of signing off leaflets that have been co-produced with our young people. As the programme develops we are providing further briefings for partners and colleagues. We have worked closely with the Parent & Carer Forum to co-design the content of the SEND Local Offer website and we will apply the content to our pages on the BCC and BCT Intranets.</p>

Work Strand	Summary of Work/Progress
Integrated Transition Team	<p>The Integrated Transitions Team works across the whole system to support young people, aged 14-30, who will require continuing support as they transition to adulthood and who are seeking support around one or more of the four PFA outcomes: employment, housing, health and friendships/community connections. The team comprises of the following staff: Head of Service (also responsible for the Vulnerable Adults Team), Team Leader, Data Analyst, Commissioning Officer, Housing Solutions Broker, Employment Officer, 2 Family Support Brokers, 4 Family Support Officers, Business Support Officer and apprentice Business Support Officer. The apprentice is from the Hive College and we are currently in discussions with the College about an apprentice commissioner. Failure to recruit 2 senior occupational therapists to the team has led to the creation of a service level agreement with colleagues within Education and Skills. The Team are located within the multi-agency hub in Lancaster Circus.</p> <p>The Team launched on 03 September and are currently carrying a caseload. The demand into the team is closely analysed, weekly reports are prepared and, in terms of governance, monthly reports presented to both the Preparation for Adulthood Board and the Life Course Board. The latest activity report is attached at Appendix 1. A whole system data task group has been established and work is progressing well to co-produce a dashboard which will track young people transitioning from the age of 14 from multiple points of the system to support earlier identification and management of demand and associated costs.</p> <p>In addition to the quantitative data, the team are collating qualitative data in the form of stories of difference. Although the team are in their infancy, they are already demonstrating an impact upon our young people as demonstrated in two of the stories of difference captured in Appendix 2.</p> <p>The Team currently operates its own front door which enables organisations to contact the service directly to make a connection request. Co-designed workflow documents</p>

Work Strand	Summary of Work/Progress
	<p>and forms to ensure access to Eclipse and Care First have been developed and once these manual forms have been built into the Eclipse and Care First operating systems, the front door will be provided corporately.</p> <p>A PFA Operating Manual has been developed so the team are all familiar with the vision, functions, roles, KPIs, existing pathways and ethos of the service area.</p> <p>There were initially four workstreams which were agreed by the Life Course Board: youth custody, community circles of support, day opportunities and supported accommodation. Autism has now been added a fifth. The Team works with partners to progress these themes.</p> <p>The Youth Custody workstream have developed the 'as is' pathways into the services for young people involved in the criminal justice system. They are also working on a project to provide a voice to the young people who are involved with these services.</p> <p>Community circles of support provides a mechanism to support a young person to be the best he/she can be by assisting him/her to achieve their goals. The young person will nominate trusted adults including family members, neighbours and professionals, such as teachers, to form the circle. The approach has been piloted in Northfield and Perry Barr and is soon to be rolled out in Hodge Hill and Erdington. We have commissioned the Community Navigators Community Interest Company to run a training programme for facilitators who will support this initiative.</p> <p>A key feature of the day opportunities workstream has been to test a system approach to personal health budgets between Birmingham City Council Adult Social Care, Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group and Birmingham Children's Trust. In November, we launched the personal budget which will be overseen by the Children and Young Peoples Integrated Commissioning Board and will inform wider roll out of personalisation in the future. This pilot invites young people to apply for budget of £500 to</p>

Work Strand	Summary of Work/Progress
	<p>undertake activities relating to PFA outcomes e.g. driving lessons to help secure employment or gym passes to assist with their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The supported accommodation workstream addresses the challenges around overseeing and monitoring quality and value for money supported accommodation for younger adults in care aged 16 and above.</p> <p>The Life Course offer in Birmingham, in relation to autism, recognises examples of good practice but highlights the need for greater joined up working to achieve better outcomes. Preparation for Adulthood is one of the themes in the Autism and ADHD action plan which seeks to address the existing issues.</p> <p>The Preparation for Adulthood Commissioning Strategy Task Group has now agreed the principles and priorities of the Strategy which will inform the completion of the initial draft by December 2020. There will then be further engagement with partners from January with implementation from the 1st of April 2021. A considerable amount of work has happened to engage young people in this work which has been very successful, evidenced by the growth of the YES (Youth Empowerment Squad) Group, a new network of young advisors, which will be aligned to the larger scale engagement work led by the Birmingham Children's Partnership Transformation Programme.</p> <p>The Team have adopted the following existing models used by colleagues in the Council and Birmingham Children's Trust: Three Conversations, Restorative practice, Lifelong Links and Family Group Conferencing. Innovative work is currently underway led by Birmingham Children's Trust and Adult Social Care in relation to the exciting development of a Preparation for Adulthood Family Group Conferencing Model and the development of a common language.</p> <p>The tender for an evaluation partner in relation to the PFA proof of concept is aligned to the wider Birmingham Children's Partnership tender. A Service Specification has</p>

Work Strand	Summary of Work/Progress
	<p>been developed with key outcomes and a successful market warming event has been held. The proof of concept continues to gain regional and national attention and a proposal has been agreed to form a Research Partnership which will start in January 2021.</p>
Transitions Assessment and Wellbeing Hub	<p>The aim of this element of the PFA proof of concept is to commission and shape an innovative and ground- breaking service model to inform the response post Covid-19 and beyond to young people whose journey towards adulthood has been seriously impacted by adverse childhood experiences and trauma.</p> <p>A market sounding exercise was completed in May and June based on the potential for an Innovation Partnership to co- design and deliver support for seriously disadvantaged young people with multiple high needs who, as a result, are being serially excluded from services leading to increased health and mental health problems, isolation, debt and homelessness leading to the poorest preparation for adulthood.</p> <p>The market sounding exercise received a good and diverse response from the market and identified the best way of engaging within the context of social distancing requirements. The outcomes from the meetings were positive and have further defined the model and approach. The key themes have been collated and returned to the whole market.</p> <p>The ITT documentation was issued to the market on 23 October, bids submitted by 24 November and evaluations during December. As the procurement process is currently underway no further information on the procurement can be given at this point.</p>
Vulnerable Adults Team	<p>The Vulnerable Adults Team is the third and final element of the overall Preparation for Adulthood proof of concept and</p>

Work Strand	Summary of Work/Progress
	<p>'offer' and aims to support younger adults from the age of 14 to 30 who have experienced trauma linked to Child Sexual Exploitation, Guns and Crime, County Lines, Domestic Violence, Drugs and Alcohol to realise their aspirations linked to the four PFA outcomes. There will be a focus on mental health, homelessness and repeat offenders who have endured trauma.</p> <p>The Vulnerable Adults Team will align closely with Children's and Adults Safeguarding, the Birmingham Children's Trust Contextual Safeguarding Hub (EMPOWER U), MASH, the co-design of the Early Help Model and the wider Birmingham Children's Partnership Transformation Programme.</p> <p>The Team is due to launch on 26th January 2021. The Head of Service devised a mobilisation plan and has worked with partners to secure accommodation, recruit staff, agree pathways, consider safeguarding and tackle any logistical operational issues.</p> <p>The recruitment to the team is near completion, the team will consist of: Head of Service (who also manages the Integrated Transitions Team) Team Leader, Data Analyst, 2 Advanced Mental Health Practitioners (AMHPs), Mental Health Liaison Co-ordinator, 6 Family Support Workers, Youth Restorative Justice Worker, Coaching & Resilience Officer and a Business Support Officer.</p> <p>The development of pathways and the interface with Safeguarding, Forward Thinking Birmingham and Community Mental Health Teams is underway which will further inform the detail of the operating model to be adopted by the Vulnerable Adults Team and how it aligns to the current offer in terms of mental health provision across the City.</p> <p>The mobilisation will closely align with the Contextual Safeguarding Hub and the Adult Social Care Mental Health Service to ensure synergy with systems and process. The Head of Service is managed by Assistant Directors Dionne McAndrew (Birmingham Childrens Trust) and John Williams</p>

Work Strand	Summary of Work/Progress
	<p>(Adult Social Care). This joint supervision and matrix management support contributes to the development of the seamless approach to transition from Children's to Adult Services that PFA promotes.</p> <p>The Vulnerable Adults Team have a core base alongside the Integrated Transitions Team in Lancaster Circus and thus work within the multi-agency hub. However, the Team will operate flexibly and have touch down space in services across the City. Discussions have taken place with regards to some members of the team having a presence in the Pupil Referral Units to provide an opportunity to carry out early intervention with this cohort of young people.</p> <p>An ODP Programme has been designed and commissioned to support the development of the team when in post and mirrors the programme commissioned and delivered to support the Integrated Transition Team.</p>
Life Course	<p>The wider emerging life course strategic and operational approach continues to progress extremely well as we collectively identify opportunities to consider and develop further collaborative and innovative models of commissioning and service delivery based on life course principles.</p> <p>The Preparation for Adulthood developments are now aligned to the emerging Early Help Model and the Transformation Programme overseen by Birmingham Children's Partnership Executive and the Councils Modernisation Board. Several life course opportunities have been agreed which will further strengthen the life course approach in Birmingham:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Network Schemes/Grant Allocation • Social Prescribing • Family Group Conferencing • PFA Community Circles of Support

Work Strand	Summary of Work/Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism <p>Such priorities will enhance the prevention first offer to local communities and will build on the PFA priorities already agreed by the Life Course Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported Accommodation • Day Opportunities • Youth Custody • Community Circles of Support • Autism <p>The Life Course approach has the potential to improve and transform some areas of support based on aligned and integrated commissioning across the whole system.</p> <p>The synergy of partner intentions and relationships across the system have been strengthened and subsequently the life course approach has gained both traction and pace with the Preparation for Adulthood service being core to its success.</p>

**Preparation for Adulthood
Integrated Transitions Team**

1. Total Number of Connections received to date (by month)

Date	Number of Connection Requests	Rolling Total
September	37	37
October	25	62
November	33	95
December	20	115
Grand Total	115	

2. Source of Connection Request by organisation (by month)

Organisation	Number of CRs
Birmingham Children's Trust	41
Education & Skills	24
Adult Social Care	19
Parent / Carer	13
Birmingham NHS Trust	5
Special School or Special College	3
Better Pathways	2
Youth Offending Service	2
Skills Max	1
Household Member	1
Autism West Midlands	1
Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid	1
Job Centre Plus	1
Birmingham Careers Advice	1
Grand Total	115

Month/Directorate	Number of CRs
September	37
Education & Skills	13
Birmingham Children's Trust	11
Adult Social Care	8
Parent / Carer	3
Job Centre Plus	1
Birmingham NHS Trust	1
October	25
Birmingham Children's Trust	11
Adult Social Care	4
Parent / Carer	4
Birmingham NHS Trust	3
Education & Skills	2

Special School or Special College	1
November	33
Birmingham Children's Trust	15
Adult Social Care	5
Parent / Carer	4
Special School or Special College	2
Birmingham NHS Trust	1
Household Member	1
Birmingham Careers Advice	1
Education & Skills	1
Skills Max	1
Better Pathways	1
Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid	1
December	20
Education & Skills	8
Birmingham Children's Trust	4
Adult Social Care	2
Youth Offending Service	2
Parent / Carer	2
Autism West Midlands	1
Better Pathways	1
Grand Total	115

3. Source of Connection Request by team (Listed by Directorate)

Directorate/Team	Number of CRs
Birmingham Children's Trust	41
Featherstone Family Support Team and Safeguarding Hub	5
Disabled Children's Team	5
Assessment Team	4
Fox Hollies Family Support Team	3
Assessment & Short Term Intervention Team	3
Care Leavers Team	2
East Birmingham Children In Care Team	2
Kitts Green Family Support Team	2
18+ Care leavers service	2
North West CIC Team	2
South Birmingham Youth Offending Team	1
Merryshaw Family Support Team	1
ReaMeadow team	1
Homeless Young People Team	1
South Birmingham Children In Care Team	1
Assessment for South team	1
Selly Oak Team	1
Think Family team	1
Hall Green Safeguarding Team	1

Northfield District Team	1
18+ Team	1
Education & Skills	24
Communication & Autism Team	12
Post 16 Team	9
Birmingham North Team	1
Educational Psychology Service	1
Education & Skills Directorate	1
Adult Social Care	19
Transitions Team	8
LD Enablement Team	2
Birmingham Careers Service	1
Hall Green Safeguarding Team	1
Home Bridging Team Worker	1
Complex Care Team	1
Learning Disability Team	1
Hodge Hill Safeguarding Team	1
SENDIASS	1
Shared Lives	1
Parent / Carer	13
Parent	13
Birmingham NHS Trust	5
Umbrella Sexual Health	3
Youth Offending Service	1
Perinatal Mental Health Services	1
Special School or Special College	3
Uffculme School	3
Better Pathways	2
Youth Promise Plus	2
Youth Offending Service	2
Youth Offending Service	2
Job Centre Plus	1
Skills Max	1
Birmingham Careers Advice	1
Autism West Midlands	1
Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid	1
Household Member	1
Grand Total	115

4. Total number of connections allocated and the monthly breakdown

Date of Allocation	Number of Allocated Cases
September	26
October	22
November	17
December	11
Grand Total	76

5. Total number of connected cases and month by month

We have connected 6 young people to the careers advice service as they were connected to the Integrated Transitions Team looking for advice on next steps for education and/or careers

6. Total number of connections by age (Allocated & Declined)

Not included in the data are Closed (9) and Under Review (2) cases

Please note we have not received any CRs from young people aged 26, 28 & 29

Age	Allocated	Declined	Grand Total
14	3	3	6
15	1	1	2
16	10	8	18
17	12	9	21
18	8	2	10
19	13	3	16
20	3	3	6
21	5	2	7
22	4	3	7
23	3	1	4
24	3	0	3
25	2	0	2
27	0	1	1
30	0	1	1
Grand Total	67	37	104

7. Total number of the breakdown of 'lead' outcomes allocated, for example housing or employment or health or community

Please note this data only accounts for allocated young people who are being supported by the Integrated Transitions Team

Outcome	Nr of People
Employment & Friendship	17
Friendship	14
Employment	7
Health & Friendship	6
Health, Employment & Friendship	5
Employment, Housing & Friendship	4
Health, Employment, Housing & Friendship	3
Housing & Friendship	3
Employment & Housing	2
Health & Employment	2
Health, Employment & Housing	2
Housing	1
Health	0
Health & Housing	1
Health, Housing & Friendship	0
Grand Total	67

8. Ethnicity profile of connections and allocations

Row Labels	Allocated/Under Review	Declined	Closed	Grand Total
White - British	35	22	6	63
Pakistani	6	2	1	9
Black - Caribbean	4	2	1	7
Caribbean - White/Black	7	0	0	7
Black - African	5	1	0	6
Mixed - White/Black	2	2	0	4
UNKNOWN	2	2	0	4
Asian - British	2	1	0	3
Asian	1	1	1	3
Bangladeshi	1	1	0	2
Black - British	1	1	0	2
Asian - Pakistani	1	0	0	1
White - Gypsy	0	1	0	1
White - Irish	1	0	0	1
Indian	1	0	0	1
Mixed - White/Asian	0	1	0	1
Grand Total	69	37	9	115

Preparation For Adulthood Stories of Difference

Name: Kerry Grainger

Team: PFA ITT

Please describe your case:

S is an 18-year-old Birmingham young person, who suffers from anxiety, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Borderline Personality Disorder and hypermobile syndrome (physical and arthritis); multiple prescribed medications plus additional herbal medications. Previously had been in employment as a support worker in ASD but lost her job due to health and well-being deteriorating. Has now applied for a care assistant job in Leeds.

S lived with mum and was her main carer. Mum has significant mental health related needs that S would cater for daily.

S has a Boyfriend who also has significant health needs and has re-settled in Leeds and S is looking to resettle there with him when she has got appropriate support for mom in place.

Situation changed within the first week of supporting S, as she then shared that she was “kicked out” of mum’s home due to an altercation between herself and mum ending in S moving to Leeds with boyfriend and not returning home. Needs and support changed and became apparent that S needed support with her mental health and health needs because she no longer was receiving the support she had in Birmingham.

Interview for employment had been organised independently by S and she wanted support with how to prepare for this.

What went well?

Overall:

The PFA team continued to support S upon her decision to move to Leeds, often services would cease involvement if a child moves out of the home LA. This investment has proved successful at present for S; should she return to Birmingham she is aware of the support available to her during her transition years.

Health:

- Referred to Leeds social care for support with mental health.
- Encouraged S to choose a GP she would like to attend to and register to resolve medication issues.

Employment:

- Provided S with interview tips, help in deciding an outfit that she felt comfortable and confident in.
- Provided employee rights in terms of her health condition.
- Prepped for interview, giving encouragement and building confidence prior to interview.

Relationship, Friendships & Community:

- Supported S through a difficult time in her relationship with her boyfriend and was able to work with S around what a good and bad relationship is.
- Problem solving discussions to build resilience
- Work was completed around trust and maintaining trust.
- Her accommodation and job would have been impacted without the support around the relationship

What could have been better?

Due to S moving to Leeds a week after I was allocated to her, I was not able to meet with her face to face.



Preparation for Adulthood
Health | Employment | Housing | Friends,
Relationships and Community

What difference do you feel you have made to the Young Person's life?

"K has given me more confidence and independence. There has been so many things I didn't think I would be able to do it myself but with K being there has gave me that push. I have not had a Job interview for a very long time because the thought of it always made me feel anxious. I was very anxious about it and told K I was not going, and K calmed me down, giving me pointers to cope with. She spent her time going through interview tips with me making sure I felt confidence before I had to attend the interview. Talking to someone like K is very different to having to talk to other professionals. It is very easy to speak to her and I know that K would not tell anyone my business if I did not ask her too unless it was something important. K has been someone I can rely on and has been there every time I have phoned her and texted her regardless of time, day, even on the weekends. She has taught me what trust is and how much professionals can support me in a good way. Even though I have not been able to meet with K, that has not mattered because the relationship has been just as good".

Preparation For Adulthood Project Report**Name: Carmel Corrigan****Team: Integrated Transitions Team****Please describe your case:**

D is a young man with global developmental delay who is at the beginning of his transitioning journey. He lives with his twin sister and his grandmother, who he has lived with since aged 5. He is very socially isolated with no friends and no community connection. He currently attends college doing two GCSE courses as his supported apprenticeship has been suspended as a result of COVID. He struggles with friendships and has had negative experiences in the past with people he thought were friends. He and his sister were bullied at secondary school 'because we're different'.

He is very close to his grandmother who is supportive of his transitioning but struggling to understand why he wishes to transition. He likes helping his grandmother in the house and garden, role play with his sister, creating videos, photography, music especially K Pop.

D is lacking in confidence and needs a lot of reassurance in unfamiliar settings. He presents as anxious and unsure of himself and relies heavily on his grandmother for support.

What went well?

D has been introduced to the young people's group, with his PFA worker attending, which is working with PFA staff to advise, guide and co-produce a range of communications and strategies. This group are making a real contribution to the work of PFA, and they are growing in confidence and working well together.

Health:

D has anxiety issues and gets agitated about how he is viewed. Attending this group where there are several young people with both physical and learning disability including autism, he is accepted for who he is and isn't judged, this is helping to reduce anxiety about trying new things and increasing his confidence.

Employment:

Being part of this group is helping him to gain self confidence and practice speaking to a group and answering questions which will help with future work-related interviews. This is an experience to put on his CV with evidence of his contributions.

**Preparation for Adulthood**

**Health | Employment | Housing | Friends,
Relationships and Community**

Friends, Relationships and Community:

Making and maintaining friendships has been an ongoing issue for D. In the group he can get to know people and start to explore what a good friend looks like and what expectations of friendship can be. He is warmly greeted, and his contributions welcomed and acted on and this is creating a very positive community for him to be part of. He is readily volunteering to take part in some of the smaller groups set up to look at specific tasks where his suggestions are being implemented.

What could have been better?

The meetings are currently taking place virtually. Whilst this works well at present, I think D would get even more out of it if he could meet people face to face. His laptop is quite old so sometimes his connectivity is compromised, making participation and following the thread of the discussion challenging.

What difference do you feel you have made to the Young Person's life?

D's life is very much focussed on his grandmother and sister, with no friendship network or community connection. It is evident how much D enjoys the group and his contributions are thoughtful and considered. D has had a negative experience of friendship to date and a very difficult secondary school experience in respect of friendships. It is wonderful to see him blossoming within this group, having people be so positive about his contributions and so pleased to see him when he joins. This is making a difference in terms of his confidence to try new things and to see that whilst you can feel nervous about participating, how important it is to give different things a chance. It also is helping him to see what a valuable contribution he can make and helping him form new friendships in a group who are very accepting of everyone, where judgement is suspended, increasing his confidence about starting to build more positive friendships. When asked about the group, he said 'I don't just like it, I love it!'

What are the next steps for D and PFA in his transition journey?

D will continue to contribute to the work of the young people's group, now called YES! (Youth Empowerment Squad). The confidence he is building as a result of his involvement is helping him to think about joining in sessions organised by a national charity, Mermaids, that supports young people transitioning. This would provide him opportunities to share experiences with other young people and get support and advice.

He is also more open now to exploring local support that might be available and PFA have contacted the Birmingham LGBT centre to investigate what is available.

D continues to feel very anxious when connectivity issue arise as YES! are meeting, this is causing him to become very agitated. Our Employment Officer, Antoe Walter, has been able to secure a donation of laptops for the young people connected with PFA. The plan is that D will be able to have one of these donated laptops which will support with college work, YES! group activities and projects and his interest in photography and video production.

An application is underway for the Personal Budget Pilot around his interest in photography and video production, enabling him to increase his employability skills, be able to participate in local photography groups, building friendships and to contribute to the work of YES!

Citizen Involvement have been supporting YES! and this is potentially providing the young people involved to be part of contributing to the wider adult social care agenda in the council. D could be a part of these wider discussions.



Preparation for Adulthood

**Health | Employment | Housing | Friends,
Relationships and Community**

A volunteer has been identified and connected to D's grandmother. This lady is the mother of a young man transitioning, to share experiences and discuss feelings. This young man is further along in his transitioning journey and therefore a lot of the issues that are present for D and his grandmother are ones this lady and her son have already worked their way through. Grandmother has found this very helpful and they plan to maintain regular contact. This lady already is a Home Start volunteer so is DBS checked and aware of confidentiality.



Preparation for Adulthood

**Health | Employment | Housing | Friends,
Relationships and Community**

Attendance and Exclusions

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 20 January 2020

Lisa Fraser – Assistant Director, Education and Early Years
Alan Michell – Head of School Admissions and Fair Access



Plan for session

To provide

- an overview of school attendance (including BCC and schools' statutory responsibilities, absence data, the impact of COVID and planned improvements)
- information about school exclusions (including BCC and schools' statutory responsibilities, exclusions data, reduced timetables, the impact of COVID and planned improvements)
- an update on Children Missing Education and Elective Home Education
- an opportunity for committee members to ask any questions.

School attendance: local authorities' statutory responsibilities

- Promote good attendance
- Prosecute cases under sections 443 and 444 of the Education Act 1996 (*Section 446 Institution of proceedings – 1996 Education Act*)
- Compile a Code of Conduct and issue penalty notices (*Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007*)
- Make joint reasonable enquiries with schools when a child has failed to attend and cannot be located (*Children missing education - Statutory guidance for local authorities September 2016*)
- Identify (as far as it is possible) those children of compulsory school age in their area who are not school registered or receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school (*section 436A of the Education Act 1996 - as inserted by section 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006*)
- Provide full time education for those children who are too ill to attend school for 15 school days or more (*Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs – Statutory guidance for local authorities January 2013*)

School attendance: schools' statutory responsibilities

- Ensure attendance is recorded accurately, twice a day on the registers (*The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999*)
- Ensure absence is investigated and followed up and early help is offered to families where attendance is a concern (*Keeping children safe in education - Statutory guidance for schools and colleges September 2019*)
- Notify the local authority of children unable to attend school due to medical needs for 15 school days or more (*Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions - Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England December 2015*)
- Notify the local authority if a child has failed to attend and their whereabouts cannot be confirmed (*Children missing education - Statutory guidance for local authorities September 2016*)
- Notify the local authority of every admission within 5 school days, of all children with 10 continuous days of unauthorised absence and of every deletion from the register (*section 12 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (Regulations) (Amendment) 2016*)

Deletion from a school's roll

Reasons a school can remove a child from roll (as per the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006) include:

- Transfer between schools
- Pupil withdrawn, i.e. education otherwise
- Ceased to attend and no longer residing in a place which is a reasonable distance from the school
- Failure to return from leave where 10 days or more have been granted and then 10 days continuous unauthorised absence and school and LA jointly make enquiries and fail to locate pupil
- A medical condition prevents return to school before ending compulsory school age
- 20 days continuous unauthorised absence and school and LA jointly make enquiries and fail to locate pupil
- In custody (not remand) for four months or more (Y and B codes)
- Permanent exclusion

How are absences monitored and recorded?

- Most schools employ specific staff to monitor absence; call parents on the first day of a child's absence if there has been no notification from the parent; and analyse trends and patterns of absence
- The local authority employs staff (Children Missing Education team) to investigate children missing education when children have not attended school and cannot be located.
- The Education Legal Intervention Team monitors the absences of all children referred to it via FAST-track to Attendance before and during any legal action taken.
- Schools have the statutory responsibility to monitor absence in the first instance and absence is monitored by analysis of the registers.

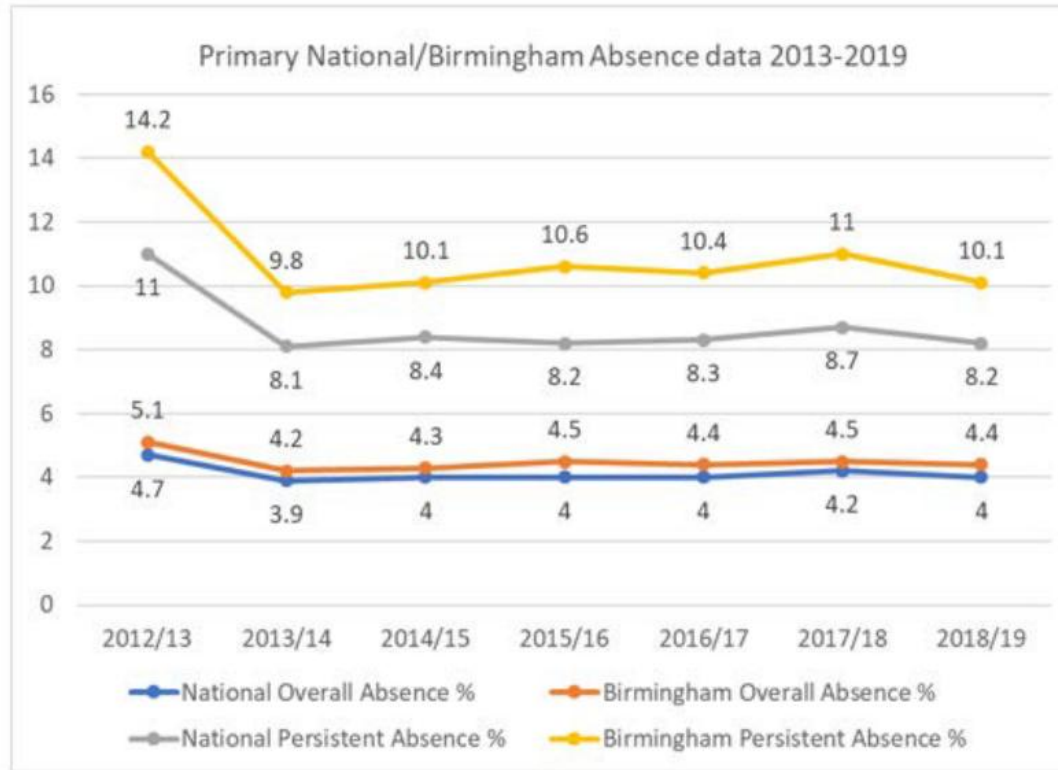
FAST-track to Attendance / Leave in Term Time

- Fast-Track to Attendance was developed with schools and Birmingham's Children's Trust.
 - All parents are informed of their responsibilities as regards attendance, including the process for requesting leave in term time and the FAST-track approach, via a whole school letter.
 - Step one of the process requires schools to consider the offer of support and if an Early Help assessment is required.
 - Early Help support continues to be offered during stages two and three of the process,
 - The voice of the child is captured in the process via the completion of the Signs of Safety and Wellbeing tool which then informs the approach taken.
 - The threshold for formal referral to the council is 20 sessions of unauthorised absence over a calendar year.
 - Within that, for FAST-track, there must be 10 sessions of unauthorised absence after a formal warning notice has been issued by the school, and 10 sessions of unauthorised absence prior to that. For leave in term time, there must be 8 sessions of unauthorised leave in term time and 12 additional sessions of unauthorised absence before referral can be made.
 - All prosecutions have to pass a public interest test which considers factors such as the seriousness of the offence, the circumstances and the level of harm caused.
 - We always seek to avoid prosecuting parents who are engaging with schools and services.
-

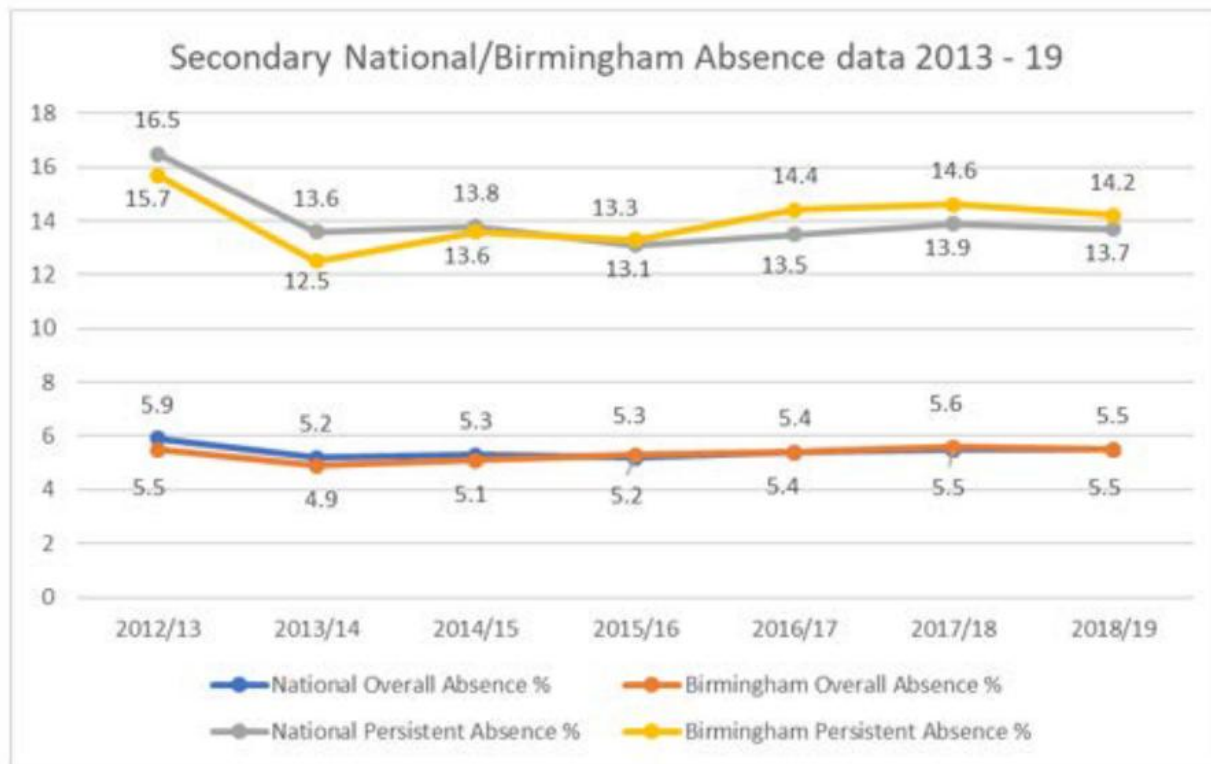
Absence data

- School census data (overall and persistent absence data) is usually published by the DfE twice a year for the previous academic year.
- Local authority strategic support for schools is prioritised based on the levels of persistent absence (percentage of children in the school with 10% or more absence)
- Absence data for children in care is monitored by Birmingham Virtual School.
- SENAR monitors the attendance of children with Education Health and Care Plans.
- The Education Legal Intervention Team monitors the attendance of children with child protection/children in need plans and offers advice and guidance to schools and social workers in order to improve attendance.
- The council reports data on the number of penalty notices issued, court proceedings taken and attendance casework to the DfE annually.
- This requirement was suspended for the 2019/20 academic year due to Covid.

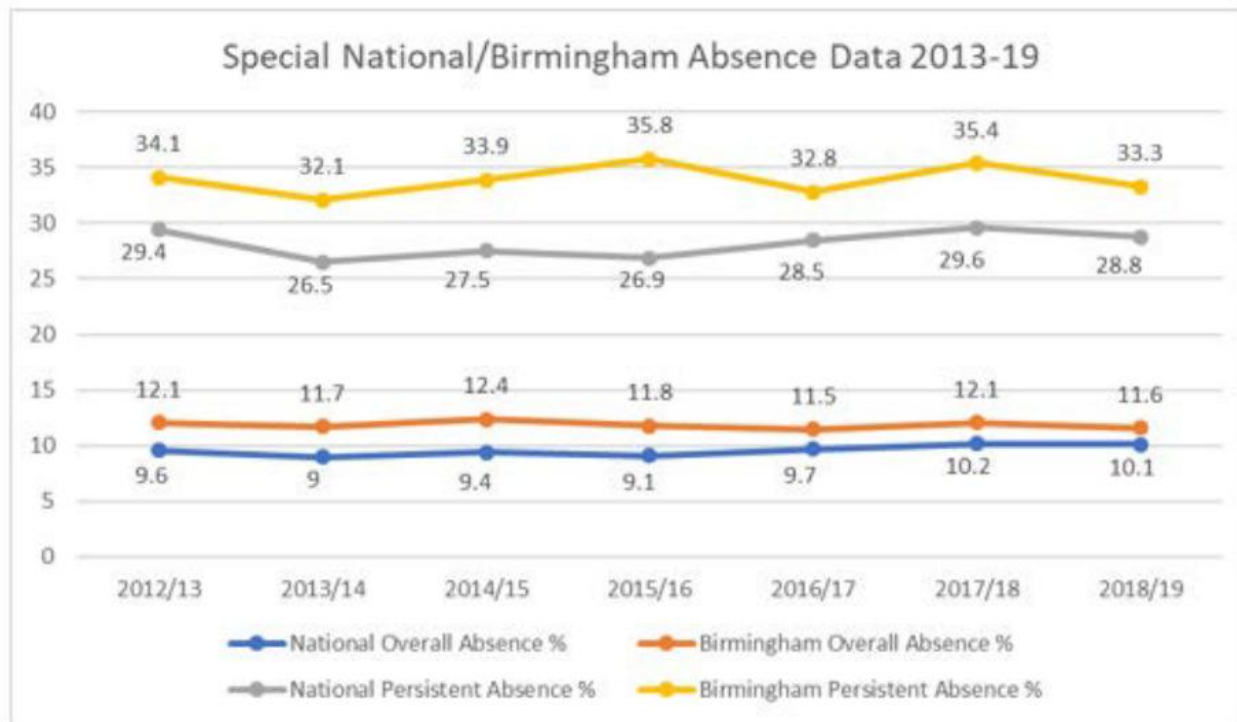
School absence data - Primary



School absence data - Secondary



School absence data - Special



Attendance: COVID period

- DfE collecting data daily direct from schools
- Attendance has been in line with elsewhere in the region and other Core Cities
- Enforcement action was suspended during the initial lockdown and for the first half-term of the autumn term
- Additional support put in place for schools and families
- Focus continues to be on early help with enforcement action reintroduced from November
- No legal action taken for new cases prior to Christmas

Improvements and next steps

- We are currently exploring the application of the new Schools Portal to support with the collection of school specific attendance data. This will only be done if it is financially viable and can add clear value to the system
- We will be reviewing our approach to targeting schools who have attendance challenges to offer support with their attendance strategy and approach
- We are continually reviewing our FAST-track to Attendance process with schools to reinforce the focus on early help so that schools are offering support to families and only taking legal action where necessary as a last resort.

Exclusions: local authorities' statutory responsibilities

- Anyone dealing with exclusion (schools, governors, council officers) must have full regard to the [DfE's statutory exclusion guidance](#) 2017.
- Head teachers/Governing bodies make decisions on the exclusion of pupils
- The council's Exclusions Team attend governors' meetings where a headteacher's decision to permanently exclude is considered by right for maintained schools and by invitation only for academies.
- The Local Authority also has a duty to arrange Independent Review Panels to consider permanent exclusion from maintained schools where a family request this.
- The Exclusion Team's attendance at either a governors meeting or Independent Review Panels is by invitation only for academies.
- The Local Authority is required to provide full time suitable education to young people from the 6th school day following permanent exclusion.

Exclusions: schools' statutory responsibilities

- The only person who can exclude a pupil is the headteacher.
- Headteachers must, without delay, notify the governing board and the local authority of:
 - any permanent exclusion (including where a fixed-period exclusion is followed by a decision to permanently exclude the pupil);
 - any exclusion which would result in the pupil being excluded for a total of more than five school days (or more than ten lunchtimes) in a term; and
 - any exclusion which would result in the pupil missing a public examination or national curriculum test.
- The headteacher must also notify the local authority and governing board once per term of any other exclusions not already notified, including the reason(s) for the exclusion and the duration of any fixed-period exclusion.
- In addition, within 14 days of a request, a governing board must provide to the Secretary of State and (in the case of maintained schools and pupil referral units (PRUs)) the local authority, information about any exclusions within the last 12 months
- For a permanent exclusion, if the pupil lives outside the local authority area in which the school is located, the head teacher must also notify the pupil's 'home authority' of the exclusion and the reason(s) for it without delay.

Exclusions/reduced timetables

- Exclusions process as per required legislation
- Reduced timetables permissible:
 - In exceptional circumstances
 - Time bound with review
 - Explicit purpose with targets
 - Agreed by family
 - Used for example where there are medical reasons, school support package needed, to support reintegration
 - Recorded as an absence for the relevant part of the week.

Annual exclusions data

Ac Yr Category	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20*
Perm Excluded from B'ham Primary Schools	89	92	111	113	103	56
Perm Excluded from B'ham Secondary Schools	189	176	185	123	164	165
Perm Excluded from B'ham Special Schools	7	6	7	6	3	6
Total	285	274	303	242	270	227

Exclusions and SEND

School Type/SEN Level (2018/19)	No SEN indicated	Additional support	EHCP	Total Permanent Exclusions
Special	0	0	3	3
Primary	32	64	7	103
Secondary	115	46	3	164
Total	147	110	13	270

School Type/SEN Level (2019/20)	No SEN indicated	Additional support	EHCP	Total Permanent Exclusions
Special	0	0	6	6
Primary	11	39	6	56
Secondary	102	58	5	165
Total	113	97	17	227

Exclusions and Ethnicity

Exclusions by Ethnicity	Headcount	Permanent rate	Fixed rate
White	68720	0.14 (0.1)	4.76 (5.88)
Mixed	16898	0.2 (0.19)	7.44 (7.65)
Asian	74686	0.05 (0.05)	2.3 (2.16)
Black	24767	0.19 (0.12)	6.82 (5.53)
Chinese	1022	0 (0)	0.29 (0.26)
All non-White British	136975	0.09 (0.09)	3.81 (4.22)

- 2017/18 data
- National figures indicated in brackets

COVID context

- Exclusion rates have reduced
- Table below shows permanent exclusions as at 10/12/20, 10/12/19 and 10/12/18

Phase/Academic Yr	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Primary	42	30	8
Secondary	53	75	49
Special	1	3	2
Total	96	108	59

Improvements and next steps

- Work closely with City of Birmingham School (COBS) to ensure provision for permanently excluded pupils and support for looked after children and young people at risk of exclusion
- Support the use of managed moves as an effective alternative to permanent exclusion
- Collegiate working with a wide range of schools and other partners
- Implement the recommendations of the recent multi-agency audit of primary permanent exclusions

Children Missing Education (CME)

- In partnership with schools, the CME team carries out 'reasonable enquiries' to establish the whereabouts of children who leave schools without trace with their families. Children missing alone and those who are a known safeguarding concern are immediately referred to CASS and/or the Police.
- The team follows a comprehensive tracing procedure for each case referred, and has wide reaching and appropriate information sharing agreements in place with key local partners, national agencies, and all other local authorities. Partnerships with national agencies include the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Organised Crime Unit and Forced Marriage Unit.
- There has been a slight spike in CME referrals received from schools since September 2020 compared to previous years, possibly due to the pandemic and family movements during the lockdown/school closure period.
- 25 referrals were received in September 2020 and identified as CME compared to 13 in September 2019.
- 20 referrals were received in October 2020 and identified as CME compared to 16 in October 2019.
- 17 referrals were received in November 2020 and identified as CME compared to 14 received in November 2019.
- Of the 62 children referred since 1st September 2020, 42 have been traced and are in receipt of suitable education. The remaining 20 have been logged as CME, their information shared with Birmingham Children's Trust for any safeguarding concerns (none highlighted) and remain within the team's tracing cycle and on-going three month reviews for at least the next 12 months. All cases remain logged and flagged until an education destination is identified or until no longer of statutory school age.

Elective Home Education (EHE)

- In November 2020 2,287 children were home educated compared with 1,806 in November 2019.
 - 407 children were withdrawn from schools for EHE in September 2020 compared to 169 in September 2019, 166 children were withdrawn in October 2020 compared to 94 in October 2019 and 154 were withdrawn in November 2020 compared to 63 in November 2019.
 - Of the 407 children withdrawn in September 2020, schools specifically indicated 'Covid' as 92 of the parents' reason for EHE, although subsequent contacts officers have had with parents indicates that around 50% decided to home educate due to their fears about the pandemic.
 - In September 2020, of the 407 children withdrawn from schools, 302 (74%) were BAME, 93 (23%) were White British/Other and 12 (3%) ethnicity unknown.
 - Ethnicity of the current EHE cohort (2,287 pupils):
 - 30.9% BAME
 - 21.35% White British
 - 4.05% White Other
 - 43.65% undeclared
 - 83 children (4.1%) of the current EHE cohort are known to have previous or current social worker involvement, 11 children are currently active cases to the Children's Trust.
-

Elective Home Education data by year group (as at 30 November 2020)

School year group	Number of children home educated
Reception	34
Yr 1	135
Yr 2	161
Yr 3	215
Yr 4	201
Yr 5	222
Yr 6	224
Yr 7	232
Yr 8	224
Yr 9	225
Yr 10	203
Yr 11	211
TOTAL	2287

Collaborative working

Join up and information sharing is facilitated by shared information systems, common processes and regular meetings:

- Attendance, Children Missing Education, Exclusions, EHE, School Admissions are all located in the same division: Education and Early Years and report to the same Assistant Director (Lisa Fraser)
- Work with colleagues in Virtual School, SENAR and all SEN colleagues within the Education and Skills Directorate
- Close working outside of the directorate (CASS) and the council (Police)
- Join up of activity via individual cases with a shared case recording system, Impulse which schools feed into via X-Vault
- Case specific, school or systems multi-agency meetings when necessary
- The Joint Responses Group is a sub group of the Birmingham Children's Partnership Operational Group and supports joint work particularly focused on vulnerable children, young people and families. There has been a focus on supporting the attendance and engagement of vulnerable families during the Covid pandemic.

Key issues moving forward

- The pandemic has led to substantial pressures on the school and wider education systems but has also presented opportunities
 - Attendance levels in Birmingham in the context of increasing levels of infection compared favourably with elsewhere in the region and the country during the autumn term. The challenge will be to maintain this when schools reopen following this lockdown and further into the future
 - We have seen a reduction in exclusions during the pandemic and the challenge will be to maintain this improvement
 - The pandemic has highlighted the need to have more effective tracking arrangements so we need to urgently invest in improvements to local authority IT systems as well as staffing capacity
 - Closer working relationships with a range of partner agencies as a result of COVID has improved the tracking and support to vulnerable pupils and their families. We will continue to build on these improvements
 - During the pandemic Birmingham Education Partnership has been working closely with the Assistant Director for SEND on inclusion and has initiated two working groups to review schools' curriculum offers for at risk and/or disengaged pupils
 - Local authority officers are working with Secondary Forum to streamline processes around local sharing panels to ensure that hard to place pupils access school provision more quickly.

Lisa Fraser
Assistant Director Education and Early Years
lisa.fraser@birmingham.gov.uk

Alan Michell
Head of School Admissions and Fair Access
alan.michell@birmingham.gov.uk



Education and Children's Social Care O&S Committee: Work Programme 2020–2021

Chair: Cllr Kath Scott

Deputy Chair: tbc

Committee Members: Cllrs: Mohammed Aikhlaq, Olly Armstrong, Barbara Dring, Charlotte Hodiola, Kerry Jenkins, Chauhdry Rashid, and Alex Yip

Education Representatives: Omar Hanif, Parent Governor; Adam Hardy, Roman Catholic Diocese; Rabia Shami, Parent Governor and Sarah Smith, Church of England Diocese

Officer Support: Acting Group O&S Manager: Ceri Saunders (303 2786)

Scrutiny Officer: Amanda Simcox: (675 8444)

Committee Manager: Mandeep Marwaha (303 5950)

1 Terms of Reference

- 1.1 To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning schools and education, the Children's Trust, vulnerable children, corporate parenting and other child social care and safeguarding functions of the council.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee dealing with education matters shall include in its membership the following voting representatives:
 - a) Church of England diocese representative (one);
 - b) Roman Catholic diocese representative (one); and
 - c) Parent Governor representatives (two).

2 Meeting Schedule

Date & Start	Items	Officers / Attendees
18 June 2020 at 2pm (Online)	Informal Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair's Update on recent activities and current issues Discussion re: date for and focus of next formal meeting 	



17 July 2020 (Online – start at 11.00)	SEND Home to School Transport Update	Cllr Kate Booth, Cabinet Member Children's Wellbeing Nichola Jones, AD, Inclusion and SEND Mark Hudson, Interim SEND Transport Manager Mark Hanson, Manager Operations, Commissioning and Contracts, SEND and Inclusion Jennifer Lucas, SEND Transport Consultant Paul Robson, SEND Transport Manager
16 September 2020 @ 10am Deadline: 7 Sep 2020	Covid-19 Impact on Schools and Preparations for Return to School in September 2020	Lisa Fraser, AD Education and Early Years and Jaswinder Didially, Head of Service, Education and Skills
	SEND Response to Covid	Nichola Jones, AD Inclusion and SEND and Kate Squires, SEND Locality, Education and Skills
16 October 2020 @ 10am	Informal Meeting: Home to School Transport	
28 October 2020 @ 10am Deadline: 19 Oct 2020	SEND Written Statement of Action (WSOA) Update (Last attended / discussed 11 March 2020)	Cllr Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing, Dr Tim O'Neill, AD, Education and Skills, Rachel O'Connor, Assistant Chief Executive, Birmingham and Solihull CCG and Nichola Jones, AD for Inclusion and SEND (Marie M Dobinson, Project Manager Partnerships)
	Youth Services	Ilgun Yusuf, Acting AD, Skills and Employability, Soulla Yiasouma, Joint Head of Youth Service, Darnish Amraz, Youth Worker and Becky Crampton, Youth Worker
9 December 2020 @ 10am Deadline: 30 Nov 2020	Children's Trust Update	Andrew Christie, Chair and Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Children's Trust
	Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Penny Thompson, Independent Chair, BSCP and Simon Cross, Business Manager
6 January 2021 @ 2pm	Request for Call-In: Home to School Transport	Cllr Ian Ward, Leader, Cllr Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing & Chris Naylor, Interim Chief Executive



20 January 2021 @ 10am Deadline: 11 Jan 21	Preparation for Adulthood Impact of Integrated Services and its outcomes update/progress from September 2020 launch. Also attending the Health and Social Care O&S Committee on the 16 th February 2021.	Dionne McAndrews, AD, Children's Trust and John Williams, AD, Adult Social Care (Linda Harper)
	Attendance and Exclusions To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children with SEND. - Managed moves and the cohort of those exclusions. - Legal framework. - Illegal exclusions including the reduced timetables and reasons. - The interplay between the different teams. 	Lisa Fraser, AD Education and Early Years and Alan Michell, Head of School Admissions and Fair Access
03 March 2021 @ 10am Deadline: 22 Feb 21	Home to School Transport	Cllr Ian Ward, Leader & Cllr Kate Booth, Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing (Suman McCartney, CSO) Witnesses for the Inquiry to also be invited.
	Early Help	Nigel Harvey-Whitten, AD, Children's Services (Commissioning) & Richard Selwyn, Birmingham Children's Partnership
14 April 2021 @ 10am Deadline: 1 Apr 21	TBC	TBC

3 Items to be Programmed

- 3.1 School Admissions.
- 3.2 Waiting Times for Therapies and the remedial action plan - Birmingham Community Healthcare (BCHC) to also be invited.
- 3.3 The Youth Service to be invited back in the Spring.
- 3.4 The Community Safety Partnership to be invited to the Committee (Cllr Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities). The Community Safety Partnerships annual report was presented to the Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee on 19th November 2020.
- 3.5 A dedicated piece of joint work with the Corporate Parenting Board, the Committee, working with the Trust, Corporate Parenting Team and Birmingham Children's Partnership.



4 Other Meetings

- Call in Meetings:
 - 6th January 2021, Improving Home to School Transport – Decision was called in.
- Petitions: None scheduled
- Petitions: None scheduled
- Councillor Call for Action Requests: None scheduled

5 Report to City Council / Pieces of Work

5.1 The Home to School Transport report was debated at City Council on 15th September 2020 and the following motion was agreed:

That the Executive provide an assessment of progress against the outcomes set out above, and the key areas listed in Section 7 in this report, to the Education & Children's Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee in March 2021.

That the Chief Executive at Birmingham City Council:

- a) Take steps to ensure that immediate changes will be made to the most pressing issues within the Travel Assist service, including [but not limited to] safeguarding of children, cancelled routes, guide changes, bus lateness, and telephone lines going unanswered;
- b) Commission an external and independent inquiry into the Full Travel Assist Service that fully addresses the concerns laid out by Parents, Carers, Schools and other users of the service as listed in section 7 and listed in paragraph number a.) above, by providing clear recommendations, lines of accountability together with an open and transparent timetable for sustainable improvement;
- c) Commission an external and independent investigation into the assurances that have been given to Members about the safety of the service and the status of improvements at meetings of Overview and Scrutiny, City Council and Audit Committee since January 2020

The investigations referred to in paragraphs b) & c) will report by 1 November 2020.

6 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

6.1 The following decisions, extracted from the Cabinet Office Forward Plan of Decisions, are likely to be relevant to the Education and Children's Social Care O&S Committee's remit.

ID Number	Title	Proposed Date	Date of Decision
007921/2020	Regional Adoption Agency	15 Dec 20	15 Dec 20
008115/2020	Birmingham Children's Trust – Accommodation & Contact Centres	10 Nov 20	10 Nov 20



Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture			
ID Number	Title	Proposed Date	Date of Decision
007494/2020	Mayfield School Conversion from Community School to Academy Status	20 Apr 21	
007918/2020	Erdington Academy School Full Business Case and Contract Award	08 Sep 20	08 Sep 20
007919/2020	Selly Park Girls' School Full Business Case and Contract Award	10 Nov 20	10 Nov 20
007966/2020	Priority School Building Programme for the Relocation of Oscott Manor School to an Alternative Site.	09 Feb 21	
008469/2021	Contract/Arrangement with Children's Trust	09 Feb 21	
008291/2020	Improving Home to School Transport	15 Dec 20	
008344/2021	Full Business Case and Recommended Contract Award for the Capital Scheme at Bishop Challoner Catholic College	19 Jan 21	
008377/2021	Proposal to Close Hunters Hill College	19 Jan 21	
008394/2021	Birmingham Children and Families Transformation Community Based Early Help System	16 Mar 21	
008400/2021	Proposed Admission Arrangements and Published Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools and the Local Authority Coordinated Scheme 2022/2023	09 Feb 21	

