



## Early Help Offer for Children and Families at Pitcheroak School

Date: September 2021

Date of review: September 2022

At Pitcheroak School we appreciate that pupils and families may face particular challenges from time to time and we strive to provide the necessary support to alleviate these challenges. We refer to this as 'Early Help'. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to teenage years.

Specific help that is available during the current COVID 19 pandemic can be found on page 21 onwards.

At Pitcheroak School, there are several members of staff that are part of a Pastoral and Safeguarding team. This team includes:

Ms Sheila Holden – Head teacher – Deputy Safeguarding Lead, SENCO

Mrs Trish Baker – Deputy Head teacher – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Mrs Holly Townsend – Assistant Head teacher – Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Jo Hooper – Assistant Head teacher – Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Members from the team liaise to discuss:

Changes in Behaviour	Attitudes to learning	Concerns expressed by parents/carers
Concerns in how a child presents	General progress	Any support that has been provided or that may be helpful
Friendships	Additional needs	Other agencies involved or that may be helpful to involve

This allows us to identify any pupils and families that would benefit from early help and allows us to help them access the services in school and beyond the school as soon as a need is identified.

Support that is available to pupils in school includes:

Pupils are actively encouraged to speak to a member of staff about any concerns they have

A member of the support staff is able to provide counselling for children

The school pays for a trained Music Therapist, and Play Therapist to work in school each week and pupils can be referred by their teachers to access this

A therapy dog also visits school each week for one session in the primary department and one session in the secondary department

Many classes offer a circle time session at least weekly during which issues that have arisen or potential issues, can be addressed

There is an active School Council which meets half termly. This enables pupils to express their views, ideas or concerns and shape decisions. At Pitcheroak School we believe it is important for pupils to know that they will be listened to and their views/concerns taken seriously

Pupil questionnaires ascertain if they feel happy and safe in school

Staff training includes pupil anxiety and behaviour, attachment, mental health, medical needs, online safety etc

Engagement in local and national safeguarding initiatives such as Safer Internet day, Anti-bullying week

Whole school safety and well-being week which addressed road safety, healthy relationships, online safety, kitchen safety, fire safety, water safety, safety in the workplace, safety in the home, Stranger danger, Safety in the community, healthy eating, mindfulness & other activities for relaxation, relevant to the age and needs of pupils

External partners are invited into school to support learning in the curriculum for example RNLI, SELFIE (Sexual Exploitation Love Friendships Information Empowerment) project, Police, Fire service, local employers, local swimming pool (life-saving)

Police Community Support Officers have supported by escorting classes across school to walk safely to the local church therefore engaging pupils so they have a positive relationship with the police

Members of the Senior Leadership Team are present during unstructured times

School nurse is in school regularly and builds trusting relationships with pupils thus getting to know them well

In order to be able to provide or signpost to appropriate support, staff receive training and information in relation to a range of strategies/services. These include:

#### ATTENDANCE

The school operates a first day response system. Daily absence and reasons for this are reported to members of the Senior Leadership Team and appropriate action to ensure safeguarding. The Office Manager monitors attendance and reports half termly to the Senior Leadership Team, any pupils whose attendance is below 90%. Steps to improve attendance are discussed which may include parents/carers being invited into school to discuss any support needs. A termly meeting is also arranged with the Schools Education Welfare and Children Missing Education Officer, Carol Skinner.

A clear protocol is in place to recognise and report any Children Missing Education.

## SAFEGUARDING

Whole school staff training for safeguarding and child protection is provided on a 3 yearly basis. Annual updates are also provided and other refreshers or new information cascaded throughout the year.

The designated Governor for safeguarding has received Governor Safeguarding training and meets half termly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead to ensure all statutory responsibilities are being met.

All staff know and are trained to identify signs that indicate a child is at risk of or has suffered significant harm and how to report concerns.

Secure child protection files are maintained online.

All staff have a 'log in' for and use CPOMS in order to report safeguarding concerns. This means that concerns can be dealt with quickly and effectively.

All new staff complete safeguarding induction.

Mrs Holly Townsend is the Designated Teacher for Children Looked After and Previously Looked After Children. This role involves ensuring that such pupils receive the best educational experience possible and measures put in place to enable them to achieve at least as well as other pupils.

All staff are asked to read and sign to say they have read the key guidance document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.

## PREVENT TRAINING – Radicalisation.

All staff are asked to complete the Home Office e-learning module PREVENT. This makes explicit the risks of radicalisation, how young people may become involved and the role staff can play in supporting those at risk. It addresses all forms of terrorism and non-violent extremism, including far right wing and Islamist extremism threatening the UK. Staff are informed of their duty to report concerns.

## Child Criminal Exploitation

All staff at Pitcheroak School have been trained to identify early cases of child criminal exploitation including sexual exploitation. Staff are supported to use the CSE Screening tool if concerns arise. This enables the level of risk to be established and the appropriate action to be taken.

## Female Genital Mutilation

All staff have received training on FGM. This includes how to identify if a child may be at risk, the signs that FGM may have taken place and most importantly how to refer, following the schools safeguarding procedures. Staff are informed that it is their legal, personal responsibility to report known cases of FGM to the police.

## **Behaviour for Learning at Pitcheroak School**

Due to the varying needs and levels of understanding of pupils, behaviour strategies may need to be devised on an individual basis.

Class teachers share information with parents/carers about strategies being used in school, via parent's evenings, EHCP review meetings or telephone calls. It is extremely beneficial if, where possible, strategies are used consistently between home and school therefore the two way sharing of information is crucial.

Class teachers are available to support with ideas for tackling behaviours that arise outside of school. A member of support staff (Paula King) is also available for specific support regarding behaviour. An appointment to discuss concerns can be made via the school office.

### **Pastoral Support**

Pupils have a clear pastoral support structure. They have a class teacher and TA as a first port of call. If further support is required the Assistant Head teachers. Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher are also available.

Parents/carers are asked to consult their child's teacher initially, should support be required. If the class teacher is not able to provide the relevant support they will be able to signpost pupils and families to the most relevant person/agency either in school or externally. With families' consent, school can refer for Early Intervention Family Support where the involvement of other agencies is necessary.

### **SENCO**

Ms Holden is the SENCO of the school and works with children, families and the local authority to support their additional needs.

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

The DSL (Mrs Baker) ensures rigorous and robust systems are in place within the school to ensure the safety of all of our children.

In Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021, it makes clear that ALL staff should be aware of their local early help process and understand their role in it. In addition, this statutory document makes it clear that any child may benefit from early help, but all school staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- Is disabled and has specific additional needs;
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan);
- Is a young carer;
- Is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups;
- Is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home;

- Is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation;
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child; such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse;
- Has returned home to their family from care;
- Is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect;
- Is at risk of being radicalised or exploited;
- Is a privately fostered child.

Everyone needs help at some time in their lives and therefore an ethos of early help is important for any school.

The coordinated Pitcheroak School offer of Early Help is outlined in the table below. We believe that early interventions for children or families, in many cases, will prevent difficulties escalating and possibly leading to the involvement of wider or statutory services.


Pitcheroak School will refer to appropriate agencies when help is required to support children, young people or families or to prevent harm

All Pitcheroak School staff are aware of the Pitcheroak School offer of early help. At all times, all staff should consider if there is any offer of early help that can be made in order to help a child thrive.

We also liaise with other agencies and services within the local community and in the table below are some National organisations that can support Children, Young people and their Families

<p>Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and deputy DSL's of Pitcheroak School</p>	<p>If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding a child at our school or in the community, then please contact a member of Pitcheroak's safeguarding team, Trish Baker, Sheila Holden, Holly Townsend or Jo Hooper on 01527 65576. This information is displayed in the schools' reception area.</p> <p>If you think a child or young person is at immediate risk of significant harm then you should contact the Family Front Door (FFD) – 01905 822 666 or in an emergency always call 999</p>
<p>Pastoral Support Team</p>	<p>Generic queries should be directed to the class teacher in the first instance, however you may also contact:</p> <p>Holly Townsend EY's and KS 2</p> <p>Jo Hooper KS3 and 14-19 phase</p> <p>Paula King – Behaviour support</p>

	<p>Hayley Whitehouse – Emotional well-being on 01527 65576.</p>
School Nurse	<p>Each Special School in Worcestershire has a named Special School Nurse. Our school nurse is Sam Jauncey and she can be contacted through the school or through her office in Bromsgrove on 01527 488446 or via email <a href="mailto:whcnhs.ssn@nhs.net">whcnhs.ssn@nhs.net</a></p> <p>Support provided by the Special School Nurse includes, care planning and assessment and interventions in school for individual children; health intervention training for education staff, in skills required to meet the child's needs; promoting continence through advice and product management; liaison and support for parents about any issues related to their child's health and well-being, and support transition for the child into adult services.</p>
Speech and Language	<p>Pitcheroak School benefits from access to the NHS Speech And Language Therapy Service to support the children, school staff and parents.</p> <p>Dani Betts and Alexis Crabtree are the allocated NHS school therapists. Their role includes assessing the pupil's speech and language needs, advising staff regarding appropriate targets and ideas for developing skills. Dani and Alexis are available for appointments during parents' evenings and can also be contacted on 01527 488326.</p>
Pitcheroak Family Support programme	<p>Fiona O'Neill (teacher) and Paula King (TA) lead on this.</p> <p>A programme of information/ training sessions is scheduled across the school year. These sessions are delivered either by school staff or invited agencies, and many of the sessions are supported by the Early Intervention Family Support worker allocated to school. This helps to ensure that any advice/ support provided by the Family Support worker is also consistent with school approaches.</p> <p>Examples of such sessions include sleep, diet and eating, puberty, communication including signing and symbol support, behaviour. A letter detailing the planned programme of sessions will be made available each term.</p> <p>Fiona and Paula welcome any requests for further training ideas or information sessions that may be useful for families and can be contacted via the school office. Paula is also happy to contact home with advice or resources or come out to visit.</p>
Occupational Therapist	<p>Pitcheroak are able to request a referral is made to Paediatric Occupational Therapy via a Health professional working in Children's Services such as our special school nurse. Paediatric</p>

	Occupational Therapy offer services for children and young people who may be experiencing difficulties or have a disability that impacts on daily life. This could involve self-care, play and difficulties with learning skills for independent living.
Mentor Link	There are times when our pupils need someone to talk to and work alongside them to advocate their thoughts and feelings. Mentor Link is a service who provide mentors who will support pupils with challenging and complex issues.  www.mentorlink.org.uk
Divert	Divert provide support to young people who are at risk of being pulled into criminal activity. Their aim is to prevent and educate young people on positive and socially acceptable behaviours.  www.yss.org.uk/divert
 The Front Door to Children's Services  (Previously: Children's Helpdesk).	If a member of staff, parent/carer or member of the public thinks a child or young person is at immediate risk of significant harm or has been harmed they should contact the Family Front Door (FFD) – 01905 822 666 or in an emergency always call 999.  Do not wait to discuss this with the DSL/DDSL but do report it afterwards.
WSCP (Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership) website.	Important information for parents and professionals across Worcestershire in relation to keeping children safe and avenues of support including early help options. Everyone should know how to access this website which has all of the agreed Worcestershire safeguarding and child protection processes on it.  <a href="https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/">https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/</a>
Universal source of help for all families in Worcestershire:  Worcestershire Family Information Service (FIS)	Worcestershire Family Information Service (FIS) advisors give impartial information on childcare, finances, parenting and education. FIS are a useful source of information for parents and professionals. They support families, children and young people aged 0-19 years of age (25 for young people with additional needs) and professionals working with these families. They can help link parents up with other organisations that might be able to help or provide the information themselves.  <a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20507/childcare/1579/family_information_service">http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20507/childcare/1579/family_information_service</a>
Online Safety (E-safety)	Online Activity (phones, computers) can be a serious risk to children. The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues - Child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation. Technology often

	<p>provides the platform that facilitates harm. With the right support, education and safety measures in place the internet and new technologies can also bring great benefits but we must all be vigilant.</p> <p>PACE (Parents Against Child Exploitation) UK is a useful website to engage parents with safety issues. <a href="http://www.paceuk.info/">www.paceuk.info/</a></p> <p>Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre. This is a one stop shop for most information about online safety.</p> <p><a href="https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/">https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/</a> -</p> <p><a href="https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers">https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers</a> (excellent resources)</p> <p><a href="https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/">https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/</a> also contains useful information to help parents keep their children safe online.</p> <p><a href="http://educateagainsthate.com/">http://educateagainsthate.com/</a> - This is the government website to help parents and professionals understand the risks of children and young people being radicalised by extremists online and how to keep children safe from this.</p>
Mental Health	<p>Useful self-help guides/leaflets are available for you to access online by typing the below link into your URL and selecting 'Self Help Guides': <a href="http://www.hacw.nhs.uk/a-to-z/letter-s/">www.hacw.nhs.uk/a-to-z/letter-s/</a></p> <p>Staying Safe <a href="http://stayingsafe.net/">http://stayingsafe.net/</a></p> <p>SANE 0845 767 800 Email: <a href="mailto:sanemail@org.uk">sanemail@org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.sane.org.uk">www.sane.org.uk</a></p> <p>Samaritans 116 123 (24 hour helpline) <a href="http://www.samaritans.org.uk">www.samaritans.org.uk</a></p> <p>Rethink Mental Illness 0300 5000 927 <a href="http://www.rethink.org">www.rethink.org</a></p> <p>Mental Health Foundation <a href="http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk">www.mentalhealth.org.uk</a></p> <p>MIND 0300 123 3393 or text 86463 <a href="http://www.mind.org.uk">www.mind.org.uk</a></p>



	<p>Anxiety UK 08444 775 774 <a href="http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk">www.anxietyuk.org.uk</a></p> <p>Self-Harm <a href="http://www.selfharm.co.uk">www.selfharm.co.uk</a></p>
<p>Worcestershire Young Carers</p>	<p>Worcestershire Young Carers is commissioned by Worcestershire County Council to provide assessment, signposting, one to one support and monthly youth clubs for young people with a caring role at home, aged between seven and 17, who live in Worcestershire. The caring role could be for a parent, a sibling or a grandparent due to illness, disability, physical or mental health difficulties or substance misuse.</p> <p>WYC also deliver a wide range of trips and activities during school holidays to ensure young carers enjoy a break from their caring responsibilities and provide opportunities they would not otherwise have access to.</p> <p>General Enquiries <a href="mailto:info@yss.org.uk">info@yss.org.uk</a></p> <p>Worcestershire Young Carers <a href="mailto:youngcarers@yss.org.uk">youngcarers@yss.org.uk</a></p> <p>01905 619886 <a href="http://www.yss.org.uk/worcestershire-young-carers">www.yss.org.uk/worcestershire-young-carers</a></p>
<p>Bullying (including cyberbullying)/ child death/suicide/prevention</p>	<p>Cyberbullying is using the internet, email, online games or any digital technology to threaten, tease, upset or humiliate someone else. If the police consider a message or post to be potentially criminal, they will take appropriate action. This could involve arresting the person responsible or interviewing them under caution. Cases involving sustained abuse or where someone's life is threatened will be treated seriously. The police will consider all of the circumstances when considering the best response to a report of cyber bullying. They will assess how vulnerable the victim is and what resources are required to trace the offender via social networking sites that often operate abroad and to different legislation. In certain cases it may be difficult to take action if the offender isn't in the UK. They will work with the victim to bring about the most suitable and proportionate conclusion, this will include alternative options that include the officer in the case using their discretion and working with the offender to record an apology to the victim.</p> <p>Useful links</p> <p><a href="#">Bullying UK</a></p> <p><a href="#">Childline</a></p> <p>KidScape: Resources provide information on issues surrounding bullying,</p>

	<p>online and personal safety. They can be used directly by young people and parents, as well as in the classroom within schools and youth organisations.</p> <p><a href="https://www.kidscape.org.uk/resources-and-publications/">https://www.kidscape.org.uk/resources-and-publications/</a></p>
<p>Hate Crime</p>	<p>A hate crime is a criminal offence whose motivation can be shown to be race, national origin, religion, disability or sexual orientation. A difference of race alone is NOT sufficient to make it a hate crime. There would have to be evidence of racial slurs or racial statements in addition to the crime (this does not trivialise other serious offenses that are NOT hate crimes).</p> <p>Hate Crime:</p> <p>West Mercia Police:</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:contactus@westmercia.police.uk">contactus@westmercia.police.uk</a></p> <p>Emergency number: 999</p> <p>Non-Emergency number: 101</p> <p><a href="https://www.truevision.org.uk/report-online">report online to True Vision (opens in a new window)</a></p> <p><a href="https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/">https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/</a></p> <p>Call in at your local police station</p>
<p>Children with disabilities team (CWD)</p>	<p>The Children with Disabilities (CwD) Social Work Team provide services designed to meet the needs of children and young people who have complex disabilities.</p> <p>The CwD Social Work Team is one of a range of services that can provide support to children and young people with disabilities and their families. Other services available are those provided by health, education, play and youth services as well as community resources provided by voluntary agencies.</p> <p>The CwD team offer services to those children and young people requiring additional resources in respect of their disability, where the disability has a profound impact on the child or young person's life.</p> <p>An assessment will be offered where the child has a condition which is substantial, long lasting or permanent, is a physical and/or learning disability or a life limiting, life threatening condition. These may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• severe learning disabilities</li> <li>• severe physical disabilities</li> <li>• severe developmental delay in motor and or cognitive functioning</li> <li>• profound multiple disabilities</li> </ul>

- severe sensory impairment (registered blind and/or profoundly deaf)
- complex and severe health problems that arise from the disability, that are life threatening, degenerative illness or organic disorder resulting in severe disability
- a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition with an associated learning disability and where the condition severely affects day to day functioning

### **SEN Services and Support Groups**

#### [9 Tea Cups](#)

#### [autismlinks](#)

Links to events, services and information of use to families of people with Autism

[Autism Spectrum Condition and Learning Disabilities Group](#), a group for family members and carers, Kidderminster Hospital

[Autism West Midlands](#) run a support group for young people aged 16-24 with Asperger's Syndrome in the Malvern Hills area

#### [Autism in Worcestershire](#)

ASPIE is a social self-help and motivation group for adults with Asperger's Syndrome. We provide a centre in Worcester where Aspies feel welcome and accepted.

Childrens Centres. Find out what's happening at [your local Children's Centre](#)

#### Community Paediatric Service

Community Paediatric Service is concerned with developmental delay and learning disability; motor difficulties such as cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy; neuro-developmental conditions including ADHD and ASD; complex behavioural difficulties; sensory impairment; statutory medical & educational assessments and annual reviews from your local SENDIASS.

([The Community Paediatric Service South Worcestershire](#), [The Community Paediatric Service Wyre Forest](#) and [The Community Paediatric Service Redditch and Bromsgrove](#))

#### [Council for Disabled Children](#)


A host of useful leaflets on SEND issues many in Easy Read format to help children understand.

#### [Disability Information Advice Line \(DIAL\) Worcestershire](#)

Website of the disability advice line South Worcestershire; local info on: Mobility; Benefits and Finance; Carers Support and Respite; Community and Voluntary Support; Disabled Children's Services; Education and Employment; Health; Housing; Independent Living; Learning Disabilities; Legal Support; Leisure

	<p>and Holidays; Mental Health; Mobility and Aids to Daily Living and Older People's Services</p> <p>Dyslexia Parent Support Group. Find out more from the <a href="#">Worcestershire Dyslexic Support Group</a></p> <p><a href="#">Footprints Support for Bereaved Children and their Families in Worcestershire</a></p> <p>Support for bereaved children and their families in Worcestershire.</p> <p><a href="#">Learning Disabilities (opens in a new window)</a></p> <p>We work with people with learning disabilities, their families and the people who support them.</p>
Early Help	<p>What is early help?</p> <p>Early help means providing support as soon as a problem appears, to stop it from getting worse. This could be at any point in a child's life, from birth to the teenage years.</p> <p>Anyone can provide early help – you don't need to be an expert professional. Early help is not about passing the issue on to an expert, but thinking about what is the best support you can offer.</p> <p>You can provide effective support by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• listening</li> <li>• working with other people who could help</li> <li>• finding out about specialist agencies who could help</li> <li>• filling out an <a href="#">Early Help Assessment</a> with the person you are helping</li> <li>• contacting <a href="#">Children's Social Care</a> if you think the problem is more serious</li> </ul> <p>There is a lot of information and advice on the <a href="#">Advice, Care, Health and Support pages</a> as well as details of local services that can provide support for children, young people and families.</p> <p>Download: <a href="#">Worcestershire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) strategy</a></p>
Early intervention family support	<p>EIFS works with Primary, Middle and Special Schools (including their nurseries) to provide support and guidance for children and their families when the needs are first identified at an early stage. The needs can be identified by parents, schools or other professionals which could include worries about bullying, health</p>

	concerns, behaviour issues, routines and boundary advice and much more.
Worcester Family Learning	<p>Family Learning courses are for parents and carers so they can support their child and family at home and enhance their own outcomes by improving their health and wellbeing, improving their social interactions by making friends and engaging in a group, supporting them to find volunteer opportunities or empowering them to progress to further accredited courses or into employment. Family Learning works closely with schools and communities to deliver courses that meet the needs of parents and carers. Our courses are free for anyone earning less than £17,000 per year or anyone unemployed and on benefits. Family Learning courses can be delivered in your school free of charge with no cost to the school.</p> <p>Link to book onto courses: <a href="http://www.Worcestershire.gov.uk/courses">www.Worcestershire.gov.uk/courses</a></p> <p>Email to contact the Family Learning Manager to request bespoke courses: <a href="mailto:Jharris5@worcestershire.gov.uk">Jharris5@worcestershire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Adult Community Learning Team phone number for any enquiries: 01905-728537</p> <p>Website address: <a href="https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20437/adult_and_family_learning_courses">https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20437/adult_and_family_learning_courses</a></p> <p>Twitter Account to follow to see new courses: <a href="https://twitter.com/AdultLearningWR">Follow @AdultLearningWR</a></p> <p>Facebook Account to follow to see new courses: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/adultlearningworcestershire">@adultlearningworcestershire</a></p>

 <p><b>Worcestershire Health and Care</b> NHS Trust</p>	<p><a href="#">Starting Well Worcestershire</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/home">https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/home</a></p> <p>Starting Well in Worcestershire service brings together teams of staff who provide help and support to children, young people and families. The service will provide support to expectant mums, to newborn babies, to school aged children and teenagers and will work to encourage development and progress.</p> <p>We place children, young people and families first, delivering safe high-quality services that empower and enable children, young people and families to achieve their full potential.</p>
<p>DDNs (Dangerous Drug Networks)</p>	<p>DDN's are drug dealing gangs who target vulnerable people in order to set up drugs distribution networks.</p> <p>These criminals are using extreme violence to establish a presence, displace an existing drug supply chain and intimidate rivals, witnesses and victims. This has resulted in local murders.</p> <p>DDN's exploit vulnerable teenagers to become drug runners for their network. Early intervention and intelligence are key to safeguard and protect the vulnerable.</p> <p><a href="#">For professionals that work with young people (PDF, 1.3 MB)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Drug Gangs and Exploitation (PDF, 556.6 KB)</a></p>
<p>Child Criminal Exploitation (County Lines)</p>	<p>Here is some guidance for frontline professionals on dealing with county lines, part of the government's approach to ending gang violence and exploitation:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines</a></p> <p>Children who are trafficked, exploited or coerced into committing crimes are victims in need of safeguarding and support. Though perceptions are altering, these young people are still often criminalised and perceived as having 'made a choice' to take part in illegal activity.</p> <p><a href="https://www.catch-22.org.uk/child-criminal-exploitation/">https://www.catch-22.org.uk/child-criminal-exploitation/</a></p>
<p>Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)</p>	<p>West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures has a page dedicated to <a href="#">Child Sexual Exploitation</a>. It provides information about child sexual exploitation, the roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies and the procedures practitioners should follow to ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people whom it is suspected have been sexually exploited or are at risk of sexual exploitation.</p>

## Key facts about CSE

It affects both girls and boys and can happen in all communities.

Any young person can be targeted but there are some particularly vulnerable groups: Looked After Children, Children Leaving Care and Children with Disabilities.

Victims of CSE may also be trafficked (locally, nationally and internationally).

Over 70% of adults involved in prostitution were sexually exploited as children or teenagers.

Sexual violence or abuse against children represents a major public health and social welfare problem within UK society, affecting 16% of children under 16. That is approximately 2 million children.

## Documents

[Appropriate Language: Child Sexual and/or Criminal Exploitation Guidance For Professionals \(CSE Police and Prevention website, opens in a new window\)](#)

[Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners \(GOV.UK website, opens in a new window\)](#)

[Child Sexual Exploitation – Identification Tool](#)

[Worcestershire Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan 2017 to 2019](#)

[WSCB Multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Pathway](#)

[WSCB CSE self assessment tool and guidance](#)

## Making a referral

The Local Authority has a duty to make enquiries where a child may be suffering harm or neglect. If you think that a child may be at risk then you can let us know via this [referral form](#).

## Useful Websites

[Barnardo's](#) spot the signs: Advice for parents, professionals and young people on the signs of sexual exploitation and how to keep safe

[Department for Education \(Gov.uk\)](#) National Action Plan for Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation

[Parents Against Child Exploitation](#) pace is the leading national charity working with parents and carers of exploited children





	<p><a href="#">NSPCC</a> definitions, statistics, facts and resources about CSE</p> <p><a href="#">NWG Network</a>: Fighting against CSE and working to inform, educate and prevent child sexual abuse within the UK.</p> <p>Spotting The Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation: a 15 minute <a href="#">YouTube clip</a> from Health Education England</p>
<p>Domestic violence</p> 	<p>Here is a very helpful website for what do to in many different difficult situations:</p> <p><a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20379/domestic_violence_and_sexual_abuse">http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20379/domestic_violence_and_sexual_abuse</a></p> <p>West Mercia Women's Aid: 0800 980 3331 0800 783 1359 <a href="mailto:helpline@westmerciawomensaid.org">helpline@westmerciawomensaid.org</a></p> <p>Further reading</p> <p><a href="#">Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship Statutory Guidance Framework (GOV.UK website, opens in a new window)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Domestic Abuse - A toolkit for employers (Wellbeing.BIT website, opens in a new window)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Groups for parents - information and guidance</a></p> <p><b>Men's Advice Line 0808 801 0327</b> <b><a href="http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk">www.mensadviceline.org.uk</a></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confidential helpline for men experiencing domestic violence from a partner or ex-partner (or from other family members). They help by: giving you time to tell your story; offering emotional support; providing practical advice; signposting you to other services for specialised support.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/">https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/</a></p>



<p>Teenage relationship abuse</p>	<p>This PDF will help you to understand teenage relationship abuse: <a href="U:\U161 CHS\U695 Education Safeguarding\G3 SG\AAA .Education Adviser Safeguarding\G1 Mgt &amp; Admin\03.Education Adviser -Safeguarding files\Admin Assisstant\A parents and carers guide to violence and abuse in teenage relationships.pdf">U:\U161 CHS\U695 Education Safeguarding\G3 SG\AAA .Education Adviser Safeguarding\G1 Mgt &amp; Admin\03.Education Adviser -Safeguarding files\Admin Assisstant\A parents and carers guide to violence and abuse in teenage relationships.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Crush</b></p> <p>CRUSH is an awareness raising and support programme to help young people make safe and healthy relationships. The sessions are run in small groups and are specifically designed for 13-19 year olds.</p> <p><a href="http://www.westmerciawomensaid.org/crush/">http://www.westmerciawomensaid.org/crush/</a></p> <p>The Hollie Gazzard trust is another fantastic organisation for advice with teenage relationship abuse <a href="https://holliegazzard.org/">https://holliegazzard.org/</a></p>
<p>Fabricated and induced illness (FII)</p>	<p>Fabricated or induced illness (FII) is a rare form of child abuse. It occurs when a parent or carer, exaggerates or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in the child.</p> <p><a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Fabricated-or-induced-illness/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Fabricated-or-induced-illness/</a></p>
<p>Faith abuse</p>	<p>Faith and belief-based child abuse, including practices around 'spirit possession' and 'witchcraft', is a hidden crime, which makes it difficult to quantify in terms of magnitude. However, it is widely known that this kind of abuse is under-reported.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-actionplan-to-tackle-child-abuse-linked-to-faith-or-belief">www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-actionplan-to-tackle-child-abuse-linked-to-faith-or-belief</a></p> <p>Further contacts for advice can be found from the local representatives for some faiths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Exploration of Knowledge About Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief (2016)</li> <li>• National Action Plan to Tackle Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief (2012)</li> <li>• Safeguarding Children from Abuse Linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession (2007) this good practice guidance is archived but still available.</li> <li>• Eleanor Stobart report 2006: Child Abuse Linked To Accusations of Possession And Witchcraft (2006)</li> <li>• Unicef study report: Children Accused of Witchcraft</li> <li>• AFRUCA: Africans Unite Against Child Abuse</li> </ul>

<p>Honour Based Violence (HBV)</p>	<p>Honour based violence (HBV) can affect men and women across a number of cultures and communities and is defined as a crime or incident committed to protect or defend the honour of the family. Issues including choice of dress, friends, relationships and careers can all be perceived as impacting on a family's honour. HBV has the potential to be both a domestic abuse and child abuse concern.</p> <p>Honour based violence can be distinguished from other forms of violence as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members.</p> <p><b>Karma Nirvana</b></p> <p>UK helpline: 08005 999247 Monday to Friday Email: <a href="mailto:Info@karmanirvana.org.uk">Info@karmanirvana.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>Honour network survivors helpline</b></p> <p>Honour network survivors helpline telephone: 0800 5999247 Online help for mixed couples whose relationship are opposed by family or community.</p> <p><b>Refuge Halo Project</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="#">Refuge (opens in a new window)</a></p> <p><b>Safe lives</b></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:rea@safelives.org.uk">rea@safelives.org.uk</a></p>
<p>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)</p>	<p>FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal or the external female genitalia. FGM is illegal in the UK and as of October 2015 mandatory reporting commenced. If education staff or other professionals discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18 years old there is a statutory (legal) duty for them PERSONALLY to report it to the police.</p> <p>Read <a href="http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/female-genitalmutilation">http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/female-genitalmutilation</a> for NHS information and signs of FGM. Any suspicion of FGM should be referred to the Police and social care.</p> <p>E-learning package- <a href="http://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/">http://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/</a> for interested staff or professionals (free home office eLearning).</p>
<p>Forced marriage</p>	<p>UK Forced Marriage Unit <a href="mailto:fmufco.gov.uk">fmufco.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Telephone: 020 7008 0151</p>

	<p>Call 999 (police) in an emergency.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage">http://www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage</a> for information on Forced Marriage. <i>Visit Home Office website to undertake Forced Marriage e-learning package</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.gscb.org.uk">www.gscb.org.uk</a> Please see 'Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines- Handling cases of Forced Marriage' for more information and detail</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/forcedmarriage">https://www.gov.uk/forcedmarriage</a></p> <p>Prevention Freedom Charity- Aneeta Prem 'But it's not fair' book. A book for teenagers looking at forced marriage from the point of view of school friends of the girl who went to India and didn't come back. This book promotes discussion.</p> <p><a href="http://www.freedomcharity.org.uk">www.freedomcharity.org.uk</a> The Freedom Charity (UK charity) have a helpline, text facility and app which can be downloaded to help provide support and protection for victims of abuse, FGM or forced marriage. They can be contacted on tel: 0845 607 0133 or text 4freedom to 88802 or go to the website to download the app from the app page.</p>
Gangs and youth violence	<p>Here is a PDF assisting with Gangs and Youth  <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418131/Preventing_youth_violence_and_gang_involvement_v3_March2015.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418131/Preventing_youth_violence_and_gang_involvement_v3_March2015.pdf</a></p> <p>This is a website for the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative:  <a href="http://www.worcesterma.gov/youth-opportunities/youth-violence-prevention">http://www.worcesterma.gov/youth-opportunities/youth-violence-prevention</a></p>
Gender-based violence/violence against women and girls	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-evidence-digest-january-2018">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-evidence-digest-january-2018</a></p> <p>For information about West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse visit:  <a href="https://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/">https://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/</a></p> <p>FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) is violence against women and girls. Forced marriage and so called 'Honour' based violence are a violation against human rights and is a high priority area of the national and local Violence Against Women and Girls Agenda. It is primarily an issue for young women and girls aged between 13 and 30 years.</p> <p>Hope House SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre):  01452 754390</p> <p><a href="http://www.onyourmindglos.nhs.uk">www.onyourmindglos.nhs.uk</a> for 'I've been raped or sexually assaulted' information.</p>

<p>Gender Identity Issues</p>	<p>The Gender Trust is a listening ear, a caring support and an information centre for anyone with any question concerning their gender identity, or whose loved one is struggling with gender identity issues. People who might be Transgender, Transsexual or people who do not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth or those who are simply unsure. Address: 76 The Ridgeway, Astwood Bank, B96 6LX tel: 0845 231 0505  <a href="http://www.gendertrust.org.uk">www.gendertrust.org.uk</a></p> <p>Here is a very useful blog from a member of staff who works in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)  <a href="https://unsafespaces.com/2014/07/18/camhs-and-gender-identity/">https://unsafespaces.com/2014/07/18/camhs-and-gender-identity/</a></p>
	<p><a href="https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/getsafe">https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/getsafe</a></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">         7. Child Exploitation Initial A     </div> <div style="text-align: center;">         Get Safe Notification Form     </div> <div style="text-align: center;">         Letter to education Giabout Get Safe weel     </div> </div> <p><b>Useful Websites</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Barnardo's</a> spot the signs: Advice for parents, professionals and young people on the signs of sexual exploitation and how to keep safe</li> <li>• <a href="#">Department for Education (Gov.uk)</a> National Action Plan for Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation</li> <li>• <a href="#">Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation</a> pace is the leading national charity working with parents and carers whose children are sexually exploited</li> <li>• <a href="#">NSPCC</a> definitions, statistics, facts and resources about CSE.</li> <li>• <a href="#">NWG Network</a>: Fighting against CSE and working to inform, educate and prevent child sexual abuse within the UK.</li> <li>• Spotting The Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation: a 15 minute <a href="#">YouTube clip</a> from Health Education England</li> </ul>
<p>Private fostering</p>	<p>National Fostering Agency (NFA)</p> <p>Call on: 0808 284 9226</p> <p>Kinship Care</p> <p>Kinship care means that relatives or friends look after children who cannot live with their parents. Visit this website for more information: <a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/privatefostering">http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/privatefostering</a></p>

<p>Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism/HATE (PREVENT duty)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.educateagainsthate.com">www.educateagainsthate.com</a> is the government website providing information and practical advice for parents, teachers and schools leaders on protecting children from radicalisation and extremism.</p> <p>Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 321</p> <p>also be raised by email to the Home office: <a href="mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk">counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>Let's talk about it is an excellent website for parents: <a href="http://www.ltai.info/">www.ltai.info/</a> as is <a href="http://www.preventtragedies.co.uk">www.preventtragedies.co.uk</a></p> <p>While it remains very rare for school age children to become involved in extremist activity to the point of committing criminal acts, young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet, from an early age. As with other forms of criminality or risk of harm, early intervention is always preferable. Schools, working with other local partners, families and communities, can help support pupils who may be vulnerable as part of wider safeguarding responsibilities.</p> <p>Channel guidance: <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf</a></p>
<p>Sexting/Sextortion/youth produced imagery/sharing of nudes or semi nudes images or videos</p>	<p><a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keepingchildren-safe/sexting">http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keepingchildren-safe/sexting</a> (NSPCC website).</p> <p><a href="https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/8206/Sexting">https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/8206/Sexting</a> (West Mercia Police website)</p>
<p>Children Missing Education (CME)</p>	<p>Children Missing Education (CME) refers to 'any child of compulsory school age who is not registered at any formally approved education activity eg school, alternative provision, elective home education, and has been out of education provision for at least 4 weeks'. CME also includes those children who are missing (family whereabouts unknown), and are usually children who are registered on a school roll / alternative provision. This might be a child who is not at their last known address and either has not taken up an allocated school place as expected, or has 10 or more days of continuous absence from school without explanation, or left school suddenly and the destination is unknown.</p> <p>This is the link for Children Missing Education on the Worcestershire website</p>

	<p><a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20595/behaviour_and_attendance/293/children_missing_education">http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20595/behaviour_and_attendance/293/children_missing_education</a></p> <p>Educational Welfare Team: EdInService@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk 01905 846760</p>
<p>Missing Children and Adults Strategy (vulnerable children and adults who go missing)</p>	<p>Every year an estimated 200,000 people go missing in the UK. In some cases, missing adults may have made a choice to leave and ‘start their lives over again’, but the vast majority of missing people, children and adults, are vulnerable and need protection and support. The strategy has three key objectives which provide the right foundations for any effective local strategy to tackle this issue: Prevention - reducing the number of people who go missing, including through prevention strategies, education work and early intervention in cases where children and adults repeatedly go missing. Protection - reducing the harm to those who go missing, including through a tailored, risk-based response and ensuring agencies work together to find and close cases as quickly as possible at a local and national level. Provision - providing support and advice to missing persons and families by referring them to agencies promptly and ensuring they understand how and where to access help. The police should be informed if any child or adult goes missing. The Missing Children and Adults strategy can be referred to for further information and help. It is a home office publication (2011).</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/missing-children-and-adults-strategy">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/missing-children-and-adults-strategy</a></p> <p><a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117793/missing-persons-strategy.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117793/missing-persons-strategy.pdf</a></p>
<p>Children with family members in prison</p>	<p>Approximately 200,000 children have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. NICCO (<a href="http://www.nicco.org.uk">www.nicco.org.uk</a>) provides information to support professionals working with offenders and their children to help mitigate the negative consequences for these children.</p> <p><a href="https://www.solgrid.org.uk/education/safeguarding/child-protection/issues/children-family-prison/">https://www.solgrid.org.uk/education/safeguarding/child-protection/issues/children-family-prison/</a></p>
<p>Children and the court system</p>	<p>Children are sometimes required to give evidence in courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are two guides to support these children which can be found at <a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/">http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/</a> (young witness booklet for 5 to 11 year olds) which is a pdf. There is also a document called “going to court and being a witness age 12 to 17” which is also found at <a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/">http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/</a></p>

	<p>Making family arrangements via court can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. The Ministry of Justice has just launched an online dispute resolution service. This can be useful to parents and carers. Go to <a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/">http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/</a> and search for “get help with arrangements.”</p>				
<p>Stalking</p>	<p>General Advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If it doesn't feel right it probably isn't!</li> <li>• Seek support from trusted family/friends</li> <li>• Report to the police and do this early</li> <li>• Keep a diary in a secure location</li> <li>• Screenshot emails etc and save them</li> <li>• Photograph/video your stalker if safely possible.</li> <li>• Get advice: Hollie Gazzard Trust, Paladin etc...</li> <li>• Tighten security; home, work and on-line</li> </ul> <p>National Stalking Helpline</p> <p>For advice and support. The helpline will operate a triage service for local support and make referrals -Phone: 0808 802 0300</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.stalkinghelpline.org">www.stalkinghelpline.org</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:advice@stalkinghelpline.org">advice@stalkinghelpline.org</a></p> <p>Paladin: National Stalking Advocacy Service</p> <p>For advice and referral.</p> <p>Phone line: 020 3866 4107</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@paladinservice.co.uk">info@paladinservice.co.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.paladinservice.co.uk/">www.paladinservice.co.uk/</a></p> <p>Hollie Gazzard Trust <a href="https://holliegazzard.org/">https://holliegazzard.org/</a></p>				
<p>Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges</p>	<p>Here is advice from the WCC webpage:</p> <p><a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20379/domestic_abuse_and_sexual_violence/886/sexual_violence_and_abuse">http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20379/domestic_abuse_and_sexual_violence/886/sexual_violence_and_abuse</a></p> <p>West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre: <a href="https://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/">https://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/</a></p> <p>01905 724 514</p> <p><u>Helpline opening times:</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>7.30pm to 9.30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>1.00pm to 5.00pm</td> </tr> </table>	Monday	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Tuesday	1.00pm to 5.00pm
Monday	7.30pm to 9.30pm				
Tuesday	1.00pm to 5.00pm				

	Thursday	7.30pm to 9.30pm
	Friday	10.00am to 2.00pm

### Additional help available due to the Covid 19 pandemic

<b>Here2Help</b>	<p><b>Here2Help</b> is a community action response to Coronavirus (COVID-19). This site provides a central location for the vulnerable who are unable to seek help from family, friends and neighbours. You can request help and find useful resources.</p> <p><a href="#">Here2Help Coronavirus (COVID-19)   Worcestershire County Council</a></p>