

## Early Help for Children and Families

### Bretforton Village School

#### Part of the Bengeworth Multi-Academy Trust



### EARLY HELP OFFER

*"Bretforton Village School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment."*

At Bretforton Village School, we understand the challenges that families face in bringing up children and recognise that there may be times when parents and carers need extra help and support. We endeavour to create a school ethos that promotes trust between parents/carers and school, as well as between all adults and children, so that everyone knows who they are able to talk to if they have any concerns or worries. Providing early help to our pupils and families at Bretforton means we are more effective in promoting support as soon as we can.

There are many ways in which we can help as outlined in this offer of early help. We can also help to plan specific support for families and we can work together to set and achieve outcomes.

The diagram below shows the range of needs at different levels. We use this graduated approach to make sure we provide the best support for different families' individual situations.



In **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020**, it makes it 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 and college 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 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 present 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.

### **Key Personnel:**

**The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is:** Kevin Riley

Contact details:

Email: [head@bretforton.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:head@bretforton.worcs.sch.uk) Telephone: 01386 830418

**The deputy DSL is:** Kirsty Shaw

Contact details:

email: [kjs83@bengeworth.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:kjs83@bengeworth.worcs.sch.uk) Telephone: 01386 442047

**The Executive Headteacher is:** David Coaché

Contact details:

email: [head@bengeworth.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:head@bengeworth.worcs.sch.uk) Telephone: 01386 442047

**The Chair of Governors and nominated safeguarding governor is:** Tony Mealings

Contact details:

email: [tmealings@bretforton.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:tmealings@bretforton.worcs.sch.uk) Telephone: 01386 830418

## **What is Early Help?**

Everyone needs help at some time in their lives and therefore an ethos of early help is important for any school or PRU. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem appears, to stop it from getting worse. Anyone can provide early help – you don't need to be an expert or professional. Early help is not about passing on the issue to an expert, but is about finding the best support at the right time in order for a child to thrive. The coordinated Bengeworth offer of Early Help is outlined in the table below. We believe that early interventions for children or families, in many cases, will prevent children from experiencing harm.

You can provide effective support by:

- listening
- working with other people who could help
- finding out about specialist agencies who could help
- filling out an [Early Help Assessment](#) with the person you are helping
- contacting [Children's Social Care](#) if you think the problem is more serious

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/eha>

There is a lot of information and advice on the [Advice, Care, Health and Support pages](#) as well as detail of local services that can provide support for children, young people and families.

Download: [Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board – Early Help Strategy 2017 to 2020](#)

Download: [Worcestershire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) strategy](#)

<b>Bretforton Village School's Early Help Offer</b>	
<b>Designated Safeguarding Lead and team</b>	<p>Our Safeguarding team works closely together to ensure best possible safeguarding practices are in place. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mr Kevin Riley) is supported by a highly trained deputy (Mrs Kirsty Shaw) who is able to provide telephone support in the DSL's absence.</p> <p>Staff are trained to share any emerging concerns with the DSL who will put a plan in place, or seek further advice, to support the child or family as needed.</p>
<b>Family Support Worker</b>	<p>Mrs Aimee Skinner is our school Family Support Worker. She holds regular drop-in sessions every Monday and Friday mornings from 8.45 – 9.15 am for all parents/carers, as well as offering targeted support where requested.</p>
<b>Early Intervention Family Support (EIFS)</b>	<p>Miss Deb Davies is Bengeworth's Early Intervention Family Support Worker who supports children and families where there have been concerns identified by parents or school about behaviour, health, behaviour issues, routines and boundaries. She is in school regularly to work with children on her caseload, holds drop -in sessions and can meet parents/carers by appointment.</p>
<b>School Nurse</b>	<p>We work closely with our school nurse, Miss Caroline Clifford, who is able to provide advice and guidance to parents on a variety of health and wellbeing issues. She visits school regularly to meet with the DSL and meets with parents, carers and children as and when required.</p>
<b>Inclusion Lead</b>	<p>Mrs Rachel Seneque is our Inclusion Lead and works alongside the school's SENCO (Mrs Rebecca Hancock) and holds an SLE for Inclusion, as well as the national SENCo award. She oversees the support and provision of all groups of pupils within our school to ensure they are making their best possible progress and meet their full potential. She is available to meet with parents and professionals to offer support and guidance.</p>
<b>Attendance - Education Welfare Officer</b>	<p>Every child whose attendance is below 90% is carefully monitored by the Education Welfare Officer, Mrs Julie Messent, and support offered to families wherever possible. Her work includes letters of concern to alert parents to falling attendance, home visits and formal attendance meetings if required.</p> <p>Our school also operates a 'first day calling system' if a child's absence is unexplained.</p>
<b>Educational Psychologist</b>	<p>Mr Kevin Mackelworth is an independent Educational Psychologist who is in school fortnightly, normally on a Thursday. He works with children using his knowledge of child development to assess difficulties they may be having with learning, as well as engaging adults in collaborative discussions about how to remove barriers to learning and develop</p>

	strategies to support the inclusion of pupils with additional needs within lessons.
<b>EAL support</b>	EAL support is available from Bengeworth Multi-Academy Trust when it is needed. The size of Bretforton Village School means that this is currently on an ad-hoc basis.
<b>Speech and Language</b>	Miss Aoife McDermott and Miss Sarah Morris are our Speech and Language therapists. They are available when needed by liaison with Mrs Rebecca Hancock.
<b>Parenting Groups and Parental Learning</b>	The school works with South Worcestershire Parenting Group and Family Learning to offer a range parenting courses to our community. This has included the Solihull Approach, Triple P, Incredible Years, Baby Massage, Family Learning.
<b>Financial support</b>	As a school, we recognise that there may be times when funding activities may be a challenge for families. We offer all our DA pupils (eligible for the PPG grant/FSM) in Reception a free school uniform to start their school career, and encourage parents/carers to come in and discuss any financial concerns with a member of the SLT. Contributions for educational visits, swimming and residential opportunities can be adjusted or spread over a longer period as necessary so that no child is excluded from an activity as a result of funding.
<b>Parental workshops</b>	<p>We offer a range of curricular workshops and informal learning opportunities for all parents throughout the year, such as Maths Breakfasts and Phonics Workshops, to develop parents'/carers' skills so that they can support their children at home.</p> <p>We also offer a 'Walk in" session each month for parents/carers to share their child's work and to have an informal discussion with the class teacher if needed.</p>
<b>Mentorlink</b>	Where there has been an identified need child's social and emotional mental health the school is able to refer to and access Mentorlink, a 1:1 mentoring service which is tailored to meet the needs of the individual. This service can be accessed for as long as is deemed necessary.
<b>Reach4Wellbeing</b>	Parents can self-refer or a child can be referred by school to this NHS-run CAMHS-CAST service. They work directly with young people who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, mental health difficulties. Their service offers consultation, advice, support and training which is tailored to each individual need.
<b>Trained Mental First Aiders</b>	The multi-academy trust has 2 key staff who have received the Mental Health First Aid training, Mrs Seneque and Miss Lane, who are able to support staff to spot signs and symptoms of common mental health issues, provide non-judgmental support and reassurance, and guide the child or adult to seek professional support they may need to recover.
<b>Behaviour Support</b>	Coordinated by the Inclusion Lead, Mrs Seneque, the school works in collaboration with Perryfields Primary PRU to support and offer guidance on the provision for children with challenging behaviours. There is also access to outreach services from Vale of Evesham Special School.

<b>Nurture Provision</b>	Nurture provision is provided on an ad-hoc basis within school by Classroom Support Professionals.
<b>Social and Emotional groups</b>	A range of interventions are offered in school to support the emotional wellbeing of our children, as and when needed. These include Talkabout, Top Dog, Time to Talk and nurture-based provision.
<b>Positive Behaviour Policy</b>	<p>All staff at Bretforton Village School promote positive behaviour consistently and relentlessly, with our school values being at the heart of everything we do. The school's behaviour policy sets out expectations for each child. Parents and carers are well informed, involved and given guidance as needed to support them in encouraging positive behaviour.</p> <p>All children are encouraged to demonstrate the six values of respect, responsibility, perseverance, friendship, forgiveness and trust. These are recognised in Celebration Assemblies which happen on Thursdays in most weeks of the school year.</p>
<b>PSHE curriculum</b>	Our school delivers comprehensive Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and is beginning to embed the new 2020 guidance for Relationships and Health Education (RHE) programmes. These further support the children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe. It also broadens their understanding of strategies to develop their resilience, their awareness of their mental health and understanding and forming health relationships. Materials from the PSHE Association are used to support the curricular requirements.
<b>Online Safety</b>	Each year group is taught how to use computers, iPads and the internet safely throughout the year, linking directly with the computing curriculum and through a cross-curricular approach. We run presentations for parents using the NCA-CEOP 'ThinkuKnow' resources at curriculum meetings and signpost parents to these. This supports both children and parents in developing a greater awareness of the dangers they face online each day, as well as offering strategies to keep themselves safe. Our Computing lead, Mr Kevin Riley monitors safety in school and work with the SLT to put measures in place to further support the children in developing safe online usage.
<b>Homework clubs</b>	A homework club for children in Years 2 to 5 is available to support children who may need extra support to complete homework and provide parents with the opportunity for support with the completion of out-of-school learning which otherwise may be challenging.
<b>Extra-curricular clubs</b>	Extra-curricular clubs are offered to all children to encourage a healthy lifestyle, relationship building, physical activity and sports, social development skills and enhancement of the curriculum. The school is able to support the cost of these for disadvantaged families eligible for the PPG funding, if necessary, so that no child is prevented from enjoying the wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities due to financial constraints.
<b>Ongoing CPD and training</b>	Our staff are highly skilled at recognising the signs that a family may need Early Help. The school invests in ongoing quality CPD, such as

	Attachment Disorder training and Protective Behaviours in order to be able to support children and families in the right way at the right time.
<b>PREVENT trained staff</b>	Both the DSL and deputies have received the PREVENT training and have disseminated this information to all staff, ensuring they are all able to identify the early stages of radicalisation and what to do. This is also part of the induction process for new staff through online safeguarding training through 'Hays'.
<b>Child Sexual Exploitation</b>	The DSL has targeted CSE training and is equipped with the knowledge to be able to identify early indicators of potential cases of child sexual exploitation. In such cases, the CSE screening tool is used. All staff have been trained through the whole school safeguarding training delivered annually.
<b>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)</b>	The DSL has completed an accredited online FGM course (Sept 2019) and all staff have received training on FGM Teachers know how to identify if a child may be at risk. They are aware of the countries and places within this country where children may be taken to for this to happen. They know the signs to look for and most importantly how to refer, following the schools safeguarding procedures.
<b>Here to help</b>	This is part of Worcestershire's response to Covid19.  By accessing this, parents can be signposted to community support in their own community so that support is sustainable and bespoke for the families in your school's community.  <a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help">http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help</a> , or call 01905 768053.
<b>Starting well</b>	The Starting Well service has a parenting and community team that can offer on line and telephone support for parents, as well as parenting courses. The parenting team can offer 1-1 parenting advice over the phone as well as virtual parenting groups around issues such as support with children's behaviour, anxiety, eating and sleeping routines etc, and can also signpost to agencies that can support parents in their own community. In addition to this the parenting team can also supports parenting to complete Sollihull on line, as well as Birth and Beyond for expectant parents.  The school nursing service can remain in contact with primary, middle and high schools via phone and email. They are providing a Chat health texting service for young people and can also provide consultations via WebEx. The School Nurse team can also off a call or WebEx monthly session for all vulnerable families.  <a href="https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/">https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/</a>
<b>Supporting happy parental relationships</b>	We recognise that during Covid 19 parental relationships maybe under pressure for several reasons, whether parents are living together in the family home or not. This website contains a range of self-help information and links to support.

	<p><a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20793/here2help_supporting_happy_parental_relationships">http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20793/here2help_supporting_happy_parental_relationships</a></p>
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We also liaise with other agencies and people within the local community. In the table below are some national organisations that can support children, young people and their families:

<p><b>The Family Front Door to Children's Services</b>  (Previously: Children's Helpdesk).</p>	<p>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 they should contact the Family Front Door (FFD) – 01905 822 666 or in an emergency always call 999.</p> <p>Do not wait to discuss this with the DSL/DDSL but do report it afterwards.</p>
<p><b>WSCB (Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board) website.</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren">http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren</a></p> <p>Important information for <b>parents</b> and <b>professionals</b> 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.</p>
<p><b>Universal source of help for all families in Worcestershire: Worcestershire Family Information Service (FIS)</b></p>	<p>Worcestershire Family Information Service (FIS) advisors give impartial information on <b>childcare, finances, parenting and education</b>. 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.</p> <p><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></p>
<p><b>Home-school support</b>  <b>Worcestershire Home Education Network</b></p>	<p>Home education is becoming an increasingly popular option for families in Worcestershire and we have a growing community that are able to offer each other support. Between us we have years of experience in educating children of all ages and are able to organise and put on a range of activities.</p> <p>We hold meetings usually at least weekly, throughout term time at various locations round the county-for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Social gatherings occur monthly in North Worcestershire for all ages, with both indoor and outdoor games plus organised activities such as climbing/zip-wires/grass sledging for 8+.</i></li> <li>- <i>Monthly meeting in Worcester with games, music and crafts for all ages.</i></li> <li>- <i>Monthly social meeting in south Worcestershire, including indoor and outdoor games, group music session and a drama group.</i></li> <li>- <i>Bowling or Ice skating most months.</i></li> </ul>



	<p>- "Education group" workshops organised regularly. Recent workshops have include: Marvellous Mosaics' 'Gunpowder plot' 'Medieval life', 'Making Music' and 'Creative Writing.</p> <p>We also meet up with people from neighbouring counties and many of us go along to the national camps and gatherings that are organised by home educators throughout the year.</p> <p>We have a Worcestershire Home Educators Newsletter (WHEN) that lists all of the activities for the coming month and run a Worcestershire Home Educators Internet support list.</p> <p>Contact us on: <a href="mailto:info@worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk">info@worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk</a></p>
<p><b>E-safety (Online Safety)</b></p>	<p>Online Activity (phones, computers) can be a <b>serious risk</b> to children: The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation – technology often 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><a href="https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/">https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/</a> - This is the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre. It's a one stop shop for most information about online safety. <a href="https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers">https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers</a> (excellent resources)</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> <p><a href="http://www.internetmatters.org">www.internetmatters.org</a> – A great site for helping parents keep their children safe online.</p>
<p><b>Mental Health</b></p>	<p>We have some useful self-help guides/leaflets available for you to access online. The guides are available for you to read online. The self-help guides can be accessed 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><b>Staying Safe</b> <a href="http://stayingSAFE.net/">http://stayingSAFE.net/</a></p> <p><b>SANE</b> 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><b>Samaritans</b> 116 123 (24 hour helpline) <a href="http://www.samaritans.org.uk">www.samaritans.org.uk</a></p>





	<p><b>Rethink Mental Illness</b> 0300 5000 927 <a href="http://www.rethink.org">www.rethink.org</a></p> <p><b>Mental Health Foundation</b> <a href="http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk">www.mentalhealth.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>MIND</b> 0300 123 3393 or text 86463 <a href="http://www.mind.org.uk">www.mind.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>Anxiety UK</b> 08444 775 774 <a href="http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk">www.anxietyuk.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Bullying (including cyberbullying)/ child death/suicide/prevention</b></p>	<p><b>Cyberbullying</b> is using the internet, email, online games or any digital technology to threaten, tease, upset or humiliate someone else.</p> <p>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><b>Useful links</b></p> <p><a href="#">Bullying UK</a></p> <p><a href="#">Childline</a></p> <p>KidScape: Our resources provide information on issues surrounding bullying, 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><b>Hollie Guard-A new personal safety APP</b></p>	<p><a href="https://hollieguard.com/Children &amp; Teens">https://hollieguard.com/Children &amp; Teens</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hollie Guard keeps your entire family safe.</li> <li>● Keep an eye on your children while they're traveling to and from school with Journey.</li> <li>● Teens can get help quickly while out with friends.</li> <li>● Parents, guardians, and caregivers are automatically contacted by both SMS and email.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Hate Crime</b></p>	<p>A hate crime is a criminal offense whose motivation can be shown to be race, national origin, religion 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><b>Hate Crime:</b>          West Mercia Police:          Email: <a href="mailto:contactus@westmercia.police.uk">contactus@westmercia.police.uk</a>          Emergency number: 999          Non-Emergency number: 101  <a href="#">report online to True Vision (opens in a new window)</a>  <a href="https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/">https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/</a>          Call in at your local police station.</p>
<p><b>Children with disabilities team (CWD)</b></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> <li>• severe sensory impairment (registered blind and/or profoundly deaf)</li> <li>• complex and severe health problems that arise from the disability, that are life threatening, degenerative illness or organic disorder resulting in severe disability</li> <li>• a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition with an associated learning disability and where the condition severely affects day to day functioning</li> </ul> <p><b>SEN Services and Support Groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">9 Tea Cups</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">autismlinks</a></li> </ul> <p>Links to events, services and information of use to families of people with Autism</p>

- [Autism Spectrum Condition and Learning Disabilities Group](#), a group for family members and carers, Kidderminster Hospital
- [Autism West Midlands](#) 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.
- Children's 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 ([The Community Paediatric Service South Worcestershire](#), [The Community Paediatric Service Wyre Forest](#) and [The Community Paediatric Service Redditch and Bromsgrove](#))
- [Core Assets](#): Core Assets deliver the Independent Support Service in partnerships with Worcestershire County Council. They provide confidential, impartial and independent information and support for young people and their families to find their way through the changes to the Special Educational needs and Disabilities (SEND) systems.  
**Please note:** Core Assets Independent Support Programme will be closing on the **31 July 2018**. Independent Support was always intended to be a time limited resource, supporting the transition from statements to EHCPs. From August 2018 onwards, parents, children and young people will continue to be able to access information, advice and support on statutory assessment and annual reviews from your local SENDIASS.
- [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 and Holidays; Mental Health; Mobility and Aids to Daily Living and Older People's Services
- Dyslexia Parent Support Group. Find out more from the [Worcestershire Dyslexic Support Group](#)
- [Footprints Support for Bereaved Children and their Families in Worcestershire](#)
- [Learning Disabilities \(opens in a new window\)](#)  
We work with people with learning disabilities, their families and the people who support them.



<p><b>DDNs (Dangerous Drug Networks)</b></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, displacing an existing drug supply chain and intimidating 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="#">Presentation For DDN's (PDF, 151.7 KB)</a></p> <p><a href="#">For professionals that work in health (PDF, 1.3 MB)</a></p> <p><a href="#">For professionals that work with young people (PDF, 1.3 MB)</a></p> <p><a href="#">For professionals working in housing (PDF, 1.3 MB)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Drug Gangs and Exploitation (PDF, 556.6 KB)</a></p>
<p><b>Child Criminal Exploitation (County Lines)</b></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><b>Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)</b></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> <p><b>Key facts about CSE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It affects both girls and boys and can happen in all communities.</li> <li>• Any young person can be targeted but there are some particularly vulnerable groups: Looked After Children, Children Leaving Care and Children with Disabilities.</li> <li>• Victims of CSE may also be trafficked (locally, nationally and internationally).</li> <li>• Over 70% of adults involved in prostitution were sexually exploited as children or teenagers.</li> <li>• Sexual violence or abuse against children represents a major public health and social welfare problem within UK society,</li> </ul>



	<p>affecting 16% of children under 16. That is approximately 2 million children.</p> <p><b>Documents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Appropriate Language: Child Sexual and/or Criminal Exploitation Guidance For Professionals (CSE Police and Prevention website, opens in a new window)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners (GOV.UK website, opens in a new window)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Child Sexual Exploitation – Identification Tool</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Worcestershire Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan 2017 to 2019</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">WSCB Multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Pathway</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">WSCB CSE self assessment tool and guidance</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Making a referral</b></p> <p>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 the referral form linked below.</p> <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>• <a href="#">Spotting The Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation: a 15 minute YouTube clip</a> from Health Education England.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Domestic violence</b></p>	<p>Here is a very helpful website for what do to in many different difficult situations:  <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><b>Further reading</b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship Statutory Guidance Framework (GOV.UK website, opens in a new window)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Domestic Abuse - A toolkit for employers (Wellbeing.BIT website, opens in a new window)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Groups for parents - information and guidance</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews (GOV.UK website, opens in a new window)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Worcestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017 - 2020 (click to download)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Worcestershire Multi-agency domestic abuse training – Learning Outcomes (click to download)</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Teenage relationship abuse</b></p>	<p>Here is a great PDF helping 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 Assistant\A parents and carers guide to violence and abuse in teenage relationships.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Crush</b>  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.  <a href="http://www.westmerciawomensaid.org/crush/">http://www.westmerciawomensaid.org/crush/</a></p>
<p><b>Fabricated and induced illness (FII)</b></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><b>Faith abuse</b></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, from our own experience and in consultation with communities, we know this kind of abuse is under-reported.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-action-plan-to-tackle-child-abuse-linked-to-faith-or-belief">www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-action-plan-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><b>Honour based violence (HBV)</b></p>	<p>Honour’ based violence (HBV) occurs when perpetrators believe a relative or other individual has shamed or damaged a family’s or community’s ‘honour’ or reputation (known in some communities as izzat), and that the only way to redeem the damaged ‘honour’ is to punish and/or kill the individual. ‘Honour’ based violence is a term that is widely used to describe this sort of abuse however it is often referred to as <b>so called ‘honour’ based violence</b> because the concept of ‘honour’ is used by perpetrators to make excuses for their abuse. There is a very strong link between ‘honour’ based violence, forced marriage and domestic abuse. The term ‘Honour Based Violence’ is the internationally recognised term describing cultural justifications for violence and abuse. Honour Based Violence cuts across all cultures and communities: Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, South Asian, African, Middle Eastern, South and Eastern European for example. This is not an exhaustive list. Where a culture is heavily male dominated, HBV may exist. The police have made it a high priority to help communities fight back to tackle both honour based violence and hate crime.</p> <p>The ‘Honour Network Help line’: 0800 5 999 247</p>
<p><b>Female genital mutilation (FGM)</b></p>	<p>Female Genital Mutilation (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 discovers that an act FGM appears</p>



	<p>to have been carried out on a girl under 18 years old there is a statutory (legal) duty on teachers 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>- Annalise Price-Thomas (Head of Service) has completed the online home office training, '<i>Female Genital Mutilation: Recognising and Preventing FGM</i>'</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 e-learning)</p>
<p><b>Forced marriage</b></p>	<p><b>UK Forced Marriage Unit</b> <a href="mailto:fmfco@fco.gov.uk">fmfco@fco.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 020 7008 0151 Call 999 (police) in an emergency. <a href="http://www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage">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> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage">https://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage</a>. GSCB one day Awareness training delivered by Infobuzz <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: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/forcedmarriage">https://www.gov.uk/forcedmarriage</a>. <b>Prevention Freedom Charity-</b> Aneeta Prem '<b>But it's not fair</b>' 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. <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 to provide support and protection for victims of abuse, FGM or forced marriage. They can be contacted on tel: 0845 607 0133 or text <b>4freedom</b> to <b>88802</b> or go to the website to download the app from the app page.</p>
<p><b>Gangs and youth violence</b></p>	<p>Here is a PDF dealing with gangs and youth violence: <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>
<p><b>Gender-based violence/violence against women and girls</b></p>	<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. 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>
<b>Gender Identity Issues</b>	<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>
<b>Private fostering</b>	<p>National Fostering Agency (NFA) Call on: 0808 284 9226</p> <p>Kinship Care 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>
<b>Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism/HATE (PREVENT duty)</b>	<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. Anti-Terrorist Hotline: tel 0800 789 321 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. 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>
<b>Sexting/Sextortion/youth produced imagery</b>	<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>
<b>Children Missing Education (CME)</b>	<p><b>Children Missing Education (CME)</b> refers to 'any child of compulsory school age who is <b>not</b> registered at any formally approved education activity eg school, alternative provision, elective home education, <b>and</b> has been out of education provision for at least 4 weeks'. <b>CME</b> also includes those children who are <b>missing</b> (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</p>



	<p><b>and either</b> 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:  <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>Babcock Prime – Educational Welfare Team:  <a href="mailto:Primeedinservice@babcockinternational.com">Primeedinservice@babcockinternational.com</a> 01905 678138</p>
<p><b>Missing Children and Adults Strategy (vulnerable children and adults who go missing)</b></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 then 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><b>Children with family members in prison</b></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><b>Children and the court system</b></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.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a> (<b>young witness booklet for 5 to 11 year olds</b>) which is a pdf. There is also a document called “<b>going to court and being a witness age 12 to 17</b>” which is also found at <a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>. Making family arrangements via court can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. The ministry of Justice has just launched an online dispute resolution</p>

	<p>service. This can be useful to parents and carers. Got to <a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a> and search for “<b>get help with arrangements.</b>”</p>								
<p><b>Stalking</b></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><b>National Stalking Helpline</b>          For advice and support. The helpline will operate a triage service for local support and make referrals -Phone: 0808 802 0300          Website: <a href="http://www.stalkinghelpline.org">www.stalkinghelpline.org</a>          Email: <a href="mailto:advice@stalkinghelpline.org">advice@stalkinghelpline.org</a></p> <p><b>Paladin: National Stalking Advocacy Service</b>          For advice and referral.          Phone line: 020 3866 4107          Email: <a href="mailto:info@paladinservice.co.uk">info@paladinservice.co.uk</a>          Website: <a href="http://www.paladinservice.co.uk/">www.paladinservice.co.uk/</a></p> <p><b>Hollie Gazzard Trust</b>  <a href="https://holliegazzard.org/">https://holliegazzard.org/</a></p>								
<p><b>Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges</b></p>	<p>Here is advice from the WCC webpage:  <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> 01905 724 514</p> <p><u>Helpline opening times:</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="571 1431 1278 1783"> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>7.30pm to 9.30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>1.00pm to 5.00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>7.30pm to 9.30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>10.00am to 2.00pm</td> </tr> </table>	Monday	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Tuesday	1.00pm to 5.00pm	Thursday	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Friday	10.00am to 2.00pm
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