

Thank you for your COVID-19 young people's emotional well-being report March 21

I have reviewed the report, its conclusions and recommendations and would make the following responses.

It is excellent that you have managed to reach the voices of 262 young people in this age group. Reaching this many young people can be very challenging and therefore your effective links to them are an important and helpful connection that I hope we can maximise opportunities on in other work.

The findings of the report were reflective of the findings of our own work. Through our Front Door early help and social work assessments we have identified both an increase in need and risk concerning EHWP in parents and in children and young people.

The chart below identifies the risk factors in our assessment in order of prevalence. It shows that DA and MH in parents as top two both years but alcohol misuse by parents rose from a ranking of 6th to 3rd and child Mental Health up from 5th to 4th. Also a concern regarding children with learning disability rising from 16th in the list of ranking factors up to 7th as parents really struggled with their children at home during lock down and school closures.

Family Front Door - Top Ten Risk Factors at End of Assessment

Relates to	Risk Factor	2020/21		2019/20	
		Rank	%	Rank	%
Parent/Carer	Domestic Violence	1	36%	1	34%
Parent/Carer	Mental Health	2	35%	2	32%
Parent/Carer	Alcohol Misuse	3	18%	6	14%
Child	Mental Health	4	17%	5	14%
Parent/Carer	Drug Misuse	5	12%	7	13%
Child	Emotional Abuse	6	12%	4	19%
Child	Learning Disability	7	9%	16	5%
Child	Domestic Violence	8	8%	8	11%
Child	Physical Abuse	9	8%	13	6%
Child	Neglect	10	8%	9	10%

During Covid we have undertaken two key projects, one Back to School and one Safeguarding Babies. In an both we undertook survey regarding EHWP and accessibility to support services.

I have attached both report evaluation/findings for your information.



Safeguarding%20BabB2S%20Final%20Evaluations%20Programme%20Evaluation%20final%20v5

In both we found similar feedback which evidences that "one size most certainly does not fit all" and importantly it is dangerous to assume that all young people can and enjoy accessing information and support via social media and online. I note

particular reference to your finding of the value of confidential space for children and young people to talk in person and will continue to be an advocate for ensuring children and young people have access to personal private spaces to a trusted adult and or someone that they can talk to about their emotional wellbeing.

As WCF, we have a quality assurance programme that seeks to understand the experience of children and young people as service users and through this we identify what difference we are making to their lives and how we might improve our services. We ask through a range of surveys a variety of questions and I will ensure that we continue to incorporate questions around how children young people are experiencing their emotional health and well-being and the support that they have to address this. Specifically for all looked after and children subject to child protection we have a “mid way” contact via the IRO/CP chairs with young people and I will expand to include a set of questions in that around EHWB to ensure we raise awareness and our assurance that children and young people are accessing services in line with your recommendations.

As part of our business plan 20/21 we have a specific work programme on emotional health and well-being for Looked After Children and we are working alongside health partners to ensure that looked after children have, as you recommend, timely access to support services across the range of EHWB to Mental Health.

As part of this and in line with your recommendation we will also review our Care Leaver web site to ensure we are raising awareness and information about EHWB services and we will look at incorporating an awareness raising article in a forthcoming news letter



NEWSLETTER 10
Final PDF.pdf

I have attached our latest newsletter to show you the type of thing we do, and you will see in “useful numbers” we always raise this information. However I think a dedicated article on Emotional Health and Well being would be good and ill put it to the team of young people.

During Covid Nov/Dec/Jan/Feb, months we also raised the benefits for our care leavers by £100 a month to support them to have additional monies for social media, amongst other things, in recognition of the isolation they were experiencing during Covid and we have ensured all our looked after young people and care leavers have access to lap top and data.

Through the Worcestershire Childrens Safeguarding Partnership we are have recently commissioned a piece of research through the University of Worcester with regards to accessibility and the effectiveness of early help including emotional health and well-being early help.

Through our own Family Support services we took learning from our own Covid survey and we now check to see what access families have to IT and data in our

assessments so that we can ensure that they can access any recommended online courses made available to them.

We recently held an internal workshop with participants of Targeted Family Support, Starting Well, Public Health and the WCC lead on Here to Help to consider how best to co-ordinate the strands of work taking place that ensure our shared vision to ensure children and young people have awareness of and access to, EHWB and early help and again, in line with your recommendation, we are currently reviewing how we can increase awareness and access to both online and direct services commissioned through public health and the CCG or provided through WCF early help services.

You will be aware of the current development of the Integrated Care System and the development of the HWBB priorities as well as the need to develop the ICS “place” priorities. As vice chair of the Children & Young People Strategic Partnership we are planning to review membership and functionality of that partnership board and its associated sub group of SEND and Early Help to ensure our families out in the place / districts can access services that meet need and EHWB is one of the priorities in that. Therefore many of the recommendations you make fit well as that work progresses which I know you will be fully engaged in.

I take particular note on your recommendations with regards to Young Carers and on reflection of your report I think we need as a service to promote the thinking and awareness of Young Carers ensuring they are identified and supported to access Worcestershire Young Carers and all other supports. This is something that we will raise through our management meetings.

When I received the report you asked for a system response and I explained that I wasn't in a position to coordinate that response so this is a response made on behalf of Worcestershire Children First. Whilst I haven't made an individual response to each recommendation I hope I have assured you that we have noted the valuable content of your report and that we share and accept its recommendations. I also hope I have been able to explain how, through a variety of work business and programmes, I will continue to raise its findings and recommendations.

Tina Russell – Chief Executive Officer, Worcestershire Children First and Director of Children’s Services (interim)