



Supporting Families at Unity Academy 2023 - 2024

Providing early help to our pupils and families at Unity Academy means we are more effective in promoting support as soon as we can. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years.

We endeavour to create an ethos that promotes trust between all adults and children, so that children know who they can talk to if they have any concerns or worries.

At Unity Academy we believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff receive annual safeguarding training through the Designated Safeguarding Lead, as well as regular updates through continuous professional development. Any new staff receive safeguarding training as part of their induction to school.

Unity Academy, our Pastoral and Safeguarding team:



Mrs Kuldip Berdesha – Head teacher – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)



Mrs Rock – Deputy Head teacher – Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Stevenson – Deputy Safeguarding Lead

The diagram below shows the range of needs at different levels. We follow this graduated approach to make sure that we provide the best support for individual families. Ref: Multi Agency Levels of Need: Guidance to help support children, young people and families in Worcestershire May 2019 (Updated)



Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 states 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:

- Has a disability and / or 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 into 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

At Unity Academy, we meet the needs of our children through a variety of ways:

Within school we strive to ensure concerns, no matter how small, are listened to and supported effectively, maximising the chances of effectively safeguarding all of our children:

The Safeguarding team meet regularly to discuss any concerns. At these meetings we discuss:

How the child presents	Behaviour	Attitudes to learning
Friendships	Family issues	Additional needs
Any support they receive	General progress	Other agencies involved

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 the school and beyond the school. Services may include:

- ✓ **Educational Psychologist:** Our EP and EP’s linked to other local schools and SEN services are in school regularly, working with children as part of our staff team. They use their knowledge of child development to assess difficulties children may be having with learning and offering recommendations and support. They often also work directly with parents.

- ✓ **CAMHs CAST:** We work closely with this professional body which is a service that sits within Worcestershire CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services). They work directly with young people experiencing or at risk of experiencing mental health difficulties. The service offers consultation, advice, support and training which can be specifically tailored to suit the professional seeking the service.

- ✓ **Mental Health First Aid:** Mrs Young has received the Mental Health First Aid training in order to support staff to spot signs and symptoms of common mental health issues, provide non-judgmental support and reassurance, and guide the young person or adult to seek professional support they may need to recover. Mrs Rock is also our designated Wellbeing Leader in school.

- ✓ **Enrichment activities:** Enrichment activities are offered to all children to encourage a healthy lifestyle, relationship building, physical activity and sports, social development skills and enhancement of the curriculum as part of the weekly timetable. **Birmingham MAC makes music work with each class on a weekly basis offering bespoke sessions to support children with SEMH needs.**

- ✓ **Daily circle time:** As a time for children to be able to share any concerns and worries, our school has a set time aside daily during breakfast and daily mile, where children can raise their concerns, safe in the knowledge that one of the class Team will respond and support immediately.



- ✓ **Online safety:** Online safety is taught throughout the year, linking directly with areas of computing children are working on. Regular hints and tips to protect children online, relating to specific areas of interest for children are shared via the weekly newsletters.
- ✓ **Nurture:** We run a dedicated nurture provision for all of our children to access weekly. The provision is run by Mrs Rock who has the nurture group training. Additionally, all staff are skilled in working with children to provide support and intervention for social, emotional and mental health needs as when needed, more information is available in our Behaviour policy. We use the Motional intervention programme to guide therapeutic intervention. The Senior Leadership Team are present across school during the day to support all staff and pupils with SEMH needs.
- ✓ **Pupil Voice** – pupils are actively encouraged to speak about any concerns they have to a member of staff. In lessons children are taught to speak openly about their emotions. Trackers play an important part in supporting children to have a voice and share their emotions openly. Pupils know the staff take all their concerns very seriously.
- ✓ **Family Support:** The team liaise with social workers and family support staff who are supporting our families in order to provide a coordinated approach.
- ✓ **Local community police officer:** The DSL communicates with the community police officer.
- ✓ **Attendance:** Mrs Rock is the lead on attendance. She monitors this weekly and follows our attendance policy to support pupils and families with attendance below 90%. The aim is to offer help and solutions to any problems. The school operates a first day response system. Where attendance does not improve, we enlist the support of the Trust attendance officer who will refer on to the LA if deemed necessary.
- ✓ **Safeguarding:** All teachers and staff know precisely how to identify and report concerns, via staff training on induction and our regular updates on safeguarding. Child protection files are kept by the DSL. The staff team use a paper based system to record safeguarding concerns and actions. We have an annual record of staff having read Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021).
- ✓ **Prevent Trained Staff:** The DSL team has received the PREVENT training, disseminating this information to ALL staff, ensuring they are all able to identify the early stages of radicalisation and what to do. This is part of the induction process for new staff. We follow the mantra;
 - NOTICE
 - CHECK
 - SHARE

- ✓ **Child Criminal Exploitation:** All staff have been trained through the whole school safeguarding training delivered annually, and are able to identify early indicators of potential cases of child criminal exploitation. All DSLs undertake annual GET SAFE training.
- ✓ **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):** All staff receive annual training on FGM. Teachers know how to identify if a child may be at risk. They know the signs to look for and most importantly how to refer, following the schools safeguarding procedures.
- ✓ **PSHE and Relationships and Sex Education Programme:** Our school delivers Personal, Social, Health and Economics, (PSHE) and Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) programmes through a bespoke curriculum to meet the needs of our children on site. This scheme further supports the children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe. It also broadens their understanding of strategies to develop their resilience, as well as their awareness of their mental health and approaches to keep this aspect of their lives healthy.
- ✓ **Children Looked After:** Mrs Rock is the designated teacher for Children Looked After and oversees the provision for our CLA within school.
- ✓ **Behaviour for Learning:** The school encourages and rewards pupils on a lesson by lesson basis and during break time, e.g. through trackers, individual points charts, star of the day and weekly reward assemblies. Pupils are rewarded for displaying positive behaviours, as detailed in the school Behaviour Policy. Our school Behaviour Policy is followed for pupils needing to recover their behaviour. The importance of communication with parents and guidance for actions is also detailed within this policy.
- ✓ **Pastoral Support:** Mrs Berdesha, Mrs Rock and work with pupils and families to support their needs whilst also signposting them to relevant agencies. With families' consent, we can refer families for further support.
- ✓ **SENDCO:** Mrs Spencer works with children and families with additional needs and can signpost parents to relevant agencies. This overseen by Mrs Rock.
- ✓ **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** The DSL (Mrs Berdesha) ensures rigorous and robust systems are in place within the school to ensure the safety of all of our children.

All Unity Academy staff are aware of the Unity Academy offer of early help. At all times all staff should consider if there is any offer of early help that we can make in order to help a child thrive.

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

Please see the Worcestershire Children First Early Help Family Support Service website:

Worcestershire Children First Early Help Family Support Service | Worcestershire County Council

<p>Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Policy (Including Child Protection) - adopted by Rivers C of E Multi Academy Trust</p>	<p>https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/st-peters-droitwichcofe/UploadedDocument/99950009-9cfb-436a-a4ab68e0cdf7c76d/safeguarding-policy.pdf</p>
<p>The Front Door to Children’s Services (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. Do not wait to discuss this with the DSL/DDSL but do report it afterwards.</p>
<p>WSCB (Worcestershire Safeguarding Children’s Board) website.</p>	<p>http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren 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.</p>
<p>Universal source of help for all families in Worcestershire: Worcestershire Family Information Service (FIS)</p>	<p>http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20507/childcare/1579/family_information_service 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.</p>
<p>Home-school support</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>

Worcestershire Home
EducationNetwork

- We hold meetings usually at least weekly, throughout term time at various locations round the county-for example:
- 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+.
- Monthly meeting in Worcester with games, music and crafts for all ages.
- Monthly social meeting in south Worcestershire, including indoor and outdoor games, group music session and a drama group.
- Bowling or Ice skating most months.
- "Education group" workshops organised regularly. Recent workshops have included: Marvellous Mosaics' 'Gunpowder plot' 'Medieval life', 'Making Music' and 'Creative Writing.

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.

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.

Contact us on: info@worcestershire-homeeducators.co.uk

E-safety (Online 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 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

PACE (parents against child exploitation) UK is a useful website to engage parents with safety issues.

<http://www.paceuk.info/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/> - This is the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre. It's a one stop shop for most information about online safety.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers> (excellent resources)

<http://educateagainsthate.com/> - 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.

A great site for helping parents keep their children safe online <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Mental Health Support

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': www.hacw.nhs.uk/a-to-z/letter-s/

Staying Safe

<http://stayingsafe.net/>

SANE

0845 767 800

Email: sanemail@org.uk www.sane.org.uk

Samaritans

116 123

(24 hour helpline) www.samaritans.org

Rethink Mental Illness 0300 5000 927

www.rethink.org

Mental Health Foundation www.mentalhealth.org.uk

MIND

0300 123 3393 or text 86463

www.mind.org.uk

Anxiety UK

08444 775 774

www.anxietyuk.org.uk

Link to WCC Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing page: [Mental health and emotional wellbeing | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Kooth '**your online mental wellbeing community**' [Home - Kooth](#)

Kooth is staffed by fully trained and qualified counsellors and is available until 10pm each night, 365 day per year. It is free, safe and provides a nonstigmatising way for young people to receive counselling, advice and support online.

Reach 4 Wellbeing [Reach 4 Wellbeing | Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust \(hacw.nhs.uk\)](#)

The Reach 4 Wellbeing team aims to promote positive wellbeing, reaching children and young people in their communities to reduce the stigma of mental health. They provide short-term group programmes for children and young people aged 5-18 experiencing mild to moderate anxiety and low mood, using cognitive behaviour therapy-based principles. Reach 4 Wellbeing is a self-referral service.

Healthy Minds [Home](#) | [Healthy Minds \(whct.nhs.uk\)](http://whct.nhs.uk)

Free confidential support, including online therapy, groups, and courses, 1.1 support and resources appropriate your individual needs.

CAMHS CAST [CAMHS CAST Service](#) | [Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust \(hacw.nhs.uk\)](http://Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust (hacw.nhs.uk))

Consultation, Advice, Supervision and Training for professionals working directly with children and young people experiencing or at risk of mental health difficulties.

PAPYRUS [Home](#) | [Papyrus UK](#) | [Suicide Prevention Charity \(papyrus-uk.org\)](http://Suicide Prevention Charity (papyrus-uk.org))

Suicide prevention support, offering free and confidential helplines, advice, webchats, and resources.

Winston's Wish [Winston's Wish - giving hope to grieving children \(winstonswish.org\)](http://Winston's Wish - giving hope to grieving children (winstonswish.org))

Bereavement support for children and young people following the death of a sibling, parent or a person important to a child.

Bullying (including cyberbullying) / Child death / suicide / prevention

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.

Useful links

[Bullying UK](#)

[Childline](#)

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.

<https://www.kidscape.org.uk/resources-and-publications/>

Hate Crime

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). **Hate Crime:**

West Mercia Police:

Email: contactus@westmercia.police.uk

Emergency number: 999

Non-Emergency number: 101

[report online to True Vision \(opens in a new window\)](#)

<https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/>

Call in at your local police station

Children with disabilities team (CWD)

The Children with Disabilities (CwD) Social Work Team provide services designed to meet the needs of children and young people who have complex disabilities.

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.

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.

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:

- severe learning disabilities
- severe physical disabilities
- severe developmental delay in motor and or cognitive functioning □
profound multiple disabilities
- 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
- 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
- [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
- [Learning Disabilities \(opens in a new window\)](#)
We work with people with learning disabilities, their families and the people who support them.

The children with disabilities social care team provide services specifically to need the needs of children and young people with complex disabilities and their families.

SEND Local Offer [SEND Local Offer | Worcestershire County Council](#) or localoffer@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Worcestershire's SEND Local Offer provides information about the different provision available to families across education, health and social care for children with special educational needs and / or disability.

Useful support groups / services:

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

<p>Early Help</p>	<p>Early help guidance for professionals</p> <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"> • 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
<p>Starting Well Partnership</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>Support for parents and families: Support for parents and families Starting Well (startingwellworcs.nhs.uk) (Parental wellbeing, parenting groups, feeding, sleeping, reducing parental conflict, financial and childcare support and supporting children who are being bullied.)</p> <p>Health Visitors - Worcestershire Health Visiting Service Starting Well (startingwellworcs.nhs.uk)</p> <p>School health nursing - School Health Nursing Starting Well (startingwellworcs.nhs.uk)</p> <p>Chat Health, a free and confidential text service which puts 11-19 year olds in touch with their local school health nurses - Text service supporting young people Latest news, updates and opportunities Starting Well (startingwellworcs.nhs.uk)</p>

<p>Worcester Family Learning</p>	<p>Family Learning courses are for parents and carers so they can support their child and family at home and develop their own skills 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.</p> <p>Link to book onto courses: www.Worcestershire.gov.uk/courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email to contact the Family Learning Manager to request bespoke courses: jharris5@worcestershire.gov.uk - Adult Community Learning Team phone number for any enquiries: 01905728537 - Website address: <p>Facebook Account to follow to see new courses: @adultlearningworcestershire</p>
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<p>Local Family Hubs / Community Connectors</p>	<p>Each family hub in Worcestershire is locality based and provides information, support and advice to children and families within the community.</p> <p>To find the details of your nearest family hub, please visit:</p> <p>Local support - Starting Well Partnership Family Hubs Starting Well (startingwellworcs.nhs.uk)</p> <p>Community Connectors are available to talk to you, listen to you and provide you with information on what is going on within the local community.</p> <p>Worcester Community Trust hold regular connect groups and deliver lifestyle courses throughout the year, for more information please visit their website:</p> <p>Community Connectors Worcester Community Trust</p> <p>Email: connectors@worcestercommunitytrust.org.uk</p>
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Homestart	<p>Homestart provides help to families with children under 5 and their older siblings to improve health, wellbeing and family relationships. This support can help parents as they learn to cope and build confidence to provide the best they can for their children.</p> <p>Your local Home-Start family offers support for Worcester, Evesham, Malvern, Pershore, Droitwich, Upton upon Severn, Tenbury Wells, and all communities within the Worcester city, Wychavon and Malvern Hills districts of Worcestershire.</p> <p>Home-Start South Worcestershire (home-startsw.org.uk)</p>
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	<p>Email: admin@newstarts.org.uk</p> <p>Website www.newstarts.org.uk</p> <p>Address: 1 Sherwood Road, Bromsgrove B60 3DR</p> <p>Tel: 01527 882410</p>
NSPCC	<p>NSPCC provides support and advice for families on how to keep children safe from abuse, bullying or neglect. They also have information on how to keep children safe online.</p> <p>NSPCC The UK children's charity NSPCC</p>

Social Prescribing	<p>Social Prescribers support individuals to take control of their health and look after themselves by making connections with different types of community support.</p> <p>Bromsgrove District – Bromsgrove District Council and Onside Advocacy</p> <p>We accept self-referrals, GP referrals and referrals from professionals/agencies.</p> <p>Self-referral - Call 0300 303 5291 or Email - rbccg.spbromsgrove@nhs.net</p> <p>Professionals can refer by completing referral form and emailing to rbccg.spbromsgrove@nhs.net</p> <p>Malvern – Citizens Advice Bureau – Please do not give out email and phone numbers to public they are just for professionals.</p> <p>Referrals to come via GP however if professional wants to refer someone directly, they can call the Social Prescribers to discuss referral. Referral email - worcscab.socialprescribing@nhs.net</p> <p>Social Prescribers Claire Edwards - 07957 712144</p> <p>Jacqui Barker - 07961 133854</p>
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	<p>Redditch – Worcestershire Association of Carers – Please do not give out email to public it is just for professionals.</p> <p>Referral email is - Rbccg.rbsocial@nhs.net</p> <p><u>Onside Advocacy</u></p> <p><u>Social Prescribing :: Onside Advocacy, Worcestershire (onside-advocacy.org.uk)</u></p> <p>The attached information is for GP Practice Staff and Professionals to make referrals – please do not share with clients/service users/patients/individuals.</p> <p>Individuals are able to self-refer into Social Prescribing/Lifestyle/Wellbeing Coaching services by contacting Onside: 01905 27525, accesshub@onsideadvocacy.org.uk, www.onside-advocacy.org.uk.</p> <p>All of our services are available to adults over the age of 18 and we are happy to discuss people aged 16 – 18 on a case by case basis. If you would like to talk to us about our children, adolescents and families services, please contact Jane Conway – jane.conway@onside-advocacy.org.uk .</p> <p>Droitwich and Ombersley – Onside Advocacy</p> <p>The Vale - Onside Advocacy</p> <p>Wyre Forest - Onside Advocacy</p> <p>Worcester City - Onside Advocacy</p> <p>Pershore and Upton - Onside Advocacy</p>
<p>Ready, Steady, Worcestershire</p>	<p>Food, activities and support available to families and children from nursery and primary aged, through to older children and teenagers during the school holidays - Ready Steady Worcestershire - school holiday food and activities Worcestershire County Council</p>

DDNs (Dangerous Drug Networks)	DDN's are drug dealing gangs who target vulnerable people in order to set up drugs distribution networks. 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.
Drug / Alcohol Support	<p>Cranstoun Worcestershire - Cranstoun</p> <p>Here 4 Youth, young person's alcohol and drug service: Here4YOUth Worcestershire - Cranstoun</p> <p>Here 4 Youth is support service for children and young people up to the age of 18 who may be struggling with their use of drug and / or alcohol.</p>
Child Criminal Exploitation (County Lines)	<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>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines</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>https://www.catch-22.org.uk/child-criminal-exploitation/</p>
Get safe	<p>Keeping children and young people safe from criminal exploitation: Get Safe - keeping children and young people safe from criminal exploitation Worcestershire County Council</p> <p>Useful Websites:</p> <p>Criminal exploitation and gangs NSPCC</p>
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	<p>West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures has a page dedicated to Child Sexual Exploitation. 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>Key facts about CSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ It affects both girls and boys and can happen in all communities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) <p>Making a referral</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>Useful Websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Sexual Exploitation pace is the leading national charity working with parents and carers whose children are sexually exploited • NSPCC definitions, statistics, facts and resources about CSE. • NWG Network: Fighting against CSE and working to inform, educate and prevent child sexual abuse within the UK. • Spotting The Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation: a 15 minute YouTube clip from Health Education England
Domestic violence	West Mercia Women's Aid: 0800 980 3331

0800 783 1359

helpline@westmerciawomensaid.org

Further reading

- [Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship Statutory Guidance Framework \(GOV.UK website, opens in a new window\)](#)
- [Domestic Abuse - A toolkit for employers \(Wellbeing.BIT website, opens in a new window\)](#)
- [Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews \(GOV.UK website, opens in a new window\)](#)

Information for children and families who may be experiencing domestic abuse:

If you find yourself in a situation where you are unsafe at home, due to domestic abuse and violence, or know someone who is, there is help available.

The West Mercia Women's Aid Helpline on **0800 980 3331** is available 24 hours a day and connects you to a trained worker who can offer you support, safety planning, information, and advice.

Men's Advice Line on **0808 801 0327** (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm)
www.mensadvice.org.uk.

If you find yourself or someone you know in an emergency always dial **999** and ask for police.

If you are not safe to speak - call 999 and then press 55. Guidance on the silent calls ("Silent solution")

[Our Services | West Mercia Women's Aid \(westmerciawomensaid.org\)](#) – West Mercia Women's Aid (WMWA) provides emotional and practical services for those whose lives have been affected by domestic abuse

WMWA works to ensure that victims are safe, have information and choice in how they can live their lives, and feel supported in their recovery from abuse.

[Dawn Project | Worcester | Worcester Community Trust](#)

	<p>A free and non-confidential network for victims of domestic abuse to make informed choices and decisions towards change</p>
<p>Housing Support</p>	<p>Platform Housing - Home Platform Housing Group (platformhg.com)</p> <p>North Worcestershire Basement Project - support to young people in North Worcestershire who are homeless (bromsgrovebasementproject.org.uk) Basement offers support to children and young people aged 16 – 25 years old who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, offering a drop in centre and floating support across communities.</p> <p>St Basils - Home (stbasils.org.uk) St Basils work with young people to help develop the skills to find and keep a home, grow their confidence, increase opportunity and reduce homelessness.</p> <p>YMCA - Supported Housing YMCA Worcestershire The YMCA offers supported housing to children and young people, along with access to education and training to help build life skills and engage within the community.</p> <p>Wyre Forest & South Worcestershire Nightstop - Wyre Forest and South Worcestershire Nightstop and Mediation Service Helping homeless young people (wyreforestnightstop.org.uk) Providing safe, emergency, temporary accommodation and family mediation for homeless young people between 16-25 years.</p> <p>Redditch Nightstop - Redditch Nightstop – Homeless Prevention & Support Services Redditch Nightstop provides emergency accommodation, supported lodgings, support and learning opportunities for those aged between 16 and 35.</p> <p>Individuals or families who are at risk of being homeless should contact their local district council who can provide information and advice on housing options. Contact details are available via the following websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bromsgrove District Council - www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/my-home • Malvern Hills District Council - www.malvern hills.gov.uk/housing • Redditch Borough Council - www.redditchbc.gov.uk/my-home • Worcester City Council - www.worcester.gov.uk/housing • Wychavon District Council - www.wychavon.gov.uk/housing • Wyre Forest District Council - www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/housing

Teenage relationship abuse	The Hollie Gazzard trust is another fantastic organisation for advice with Teenage relationship abuse https://holliegazzard.org/
Fabricated and induced illness (FII)	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. https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Fabricated-or-induced-illness/

Faith abuse	<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>Contacts for advice can be found from the local representatives for some faiths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Exploration of Knowledge About Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief (2016) • National Action Plan to Tackle Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief (2012) • Safeguarding Children from Abuse Linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession (2007) this good practice guidance is archived but still available. • Eleanor Stobart report 2006: Child Abuse Linked To Accusations of Possession And Witchcraft (2006) • Unicef study report: Children Accused of Witchcraft • AFRUCA: Africans Unite Against Child Abuse
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Honour based violence (HBV)	<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 so called 'honour' based violence 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>
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Female genital mutilation (FGM)	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 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.
Forced marriage	UK Forced Marriage Unit fmu@fco.gov.uk Telephone: 020 7008 0151 Call 999 (police) in an emergency.

	<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>www.freedomcharity.org.uk 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 4freedom to 88802 or go to the website to download the app from the app page.</p>
Gangs and youth violence	<p style="text-align: right;">Here is a PDF assisting</p> <p>with Gangs and Youth</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418131/Preventing_youth_violence_and_gang_involvement_v3_March2015.pdf</p> <p>This is a website for the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative:</p> <p>http://www.worcesterma.gov/youth-opportunities/youth-violence-prevention</p>

<p>Gender-based violence/violence against women and girls</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girlsevidence-digest-january-2018</p> <p>For information about West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse visit: https://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/</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>http://www.onyourmindglos.nhs.uk 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 Unity Academy Droitwich C of E , Astwood Bank, B96 6LX tel: 0845 231 0505 www.gendertrust.org.uk</p>

Private fostering	<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: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/privatefostering</p>
Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism / HATE (PREVENT duty)	<p>http://www.educateagainsthate.com 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: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk.</p> <p>Let's talk about it is an excellent website for parents: http://www.itai.info/</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>
Sexting / Sextortion/youth produced imagery	<p>Sexting: advice for professionals NSPCC Learning (NSPCC website).</p>
Children Missing in Education (CME)	<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</p>

	(family whereabouts unknown), and are usually children who are registered on a school roll / alternative provision. This might be a child who
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	<p>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>Babcock Prime – Educational Welfare Team: 01905 678138</p> <p>Primeedinvservice@babcockinternational.com</p>
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<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 then be referred to for further information and help. It is a home office publication (2011).</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/missing-children-and-adults-strategy</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117793/missing-persons-strategy.pdf</p>
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Children with family members in prison	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 (www.nicco.org.uk) provides information to support professionals working with offenders and their children to help mitigate the negative consequences for these children.
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Children and the court system	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 http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/ (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 http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/ 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. Got to http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/ and search for “get help with arrangements.”
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Stalking	<p>General Advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If it doesn't feel right it probably isn't! ▪ Seek support from trusted family/friends ▪ Report to the police and do this early ▪ Keep a diary in a secure location ▪ Screenshot emails etc and save them ▪ Photograph/video your stalker if safely possible. ▪ Get advice: Hollie Gazzard Trust, Paladin etc... ▪ Tighten security; home, work and on-line <p>Paladin: National Stalking Advocacy Service For advice and referral. Phone line: 020 3866 4107 Email: info@paladinservice.co.uk Website: www.paladinservice.co.uk/</p> <p>Hollie Gazzard Trust: https://holliegazzard.org/</p>
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Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges

Here is advice from the WCC webpage:

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20379/domestic_abuse_and_sexual_violence/886/sexual_violence_and_abuse

West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre:

<https://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/>

Helpline opening times:

01905 724 514

Monday	7.30pm to 9.30pm
Tuesday	1.00pm to 5.00pm
Thursday	7.30pm to 9.30pm
Friday	10.00am to 2.00pm