



Warwickshire Parent Carer Live Broadcast (SEND) 23rd September 2021 Q&A's

1. Why has the inspection feedback process taken longer than usual?

The feedback process took longer than usual due to the inspectors being on leave over the summer holidays and the time required to complete national quality assurance checks on the final report.

2. Where and when will the full report be publicly available?

The [Inspection Report](#) was published on the Warwickshire County Council (WCC) website at 1pm on 23rd September. It will also be available on Ofsted and CQC websites.

3. Are WCC aware the current forum now has no committee members accessing specialist Health provision and Social Care? Can I join any other WCC coproduction groups which cover these areas?

WPCV has played a critical role during the inspection period, and WCC is confident that WPCV can fulfil the role of the parent carer forum moving forward to improve services for children and young people with SEND. Their personal circumstances are not discussed as this information is confidential. As a representative organisation, WPCV draws on the experiences of the parent carer community to inform their discussions within local SEND systems. Each representative understands their role is to draw from the experience of the wider community, which may include their own experience where appropriate, or may not. The role of a parent carer forum is to present a range of experience to inform local decision making and practice. This is informed by what parents and carers say is working, not working, and what could be improved.

The WPCV are looking to extend their membership and are recruiting representatives to attend strategic meetings. If you are interested in being involved, please contact warwickshireparentcarervoice@gmail.com

4. Have the 70 odd parents and carers who attended the Inspection Teams meeting been invited to this feedback session? This week I've checked the council website for any updates on the Inspection process but this current Teams meeting never came up in my search efforts. I'm pretty sure all these other parent carers would want to know about the feedback session.

Unfortunately, there was no registration process for the Inspection Teams Meeting so it has not been possible to contact the parents and carers who attended. However, the feedback session on 23rd September will be [recorded](#) and shared on the WCC website and via Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice.

5. I want to know what support you are going to give to schools to support children in mainstream settings? My son should be in mainstream but he had to move to a specialist school at year 10 because he was not supported throughout his mainstream career. You cannot just place children in mainstream without support.

WCC will work together to upskill staff to ensure schools have the right skills, knowledge and understanding to meet the needs of our children and young people. Schools will be encouraged to take up training, working with head teachers, governors and the Regional Schools Commissioners for



Academies to develop an ethos of inclusive schools across Warwickshire. WCC has also strengthened panel processes to ensure robust, evidence based and fair decisions making. These changes will ensure WCC and partners serve communities as well as possible.

6. Regarding the waiting list, it is too long, but just improving waiting times doesn't solve the problem. There is little post-diagnosis support. This needs to be addressed as well.

The waiting list is too long and a clear plan will be co-produced to address this with health, WPCV and other partners and awareness raised around the support available to children, young people and their families before, during and after diagnosis. This will be promoted on the local offer website and through regular webinars and communications.

7. What are you going to do about communication with parents? This is not a new issue within Warwickshire and in 2018 there were new communication processes put in place but it's obvious they are still not working.

WCC and partners are committed to deliver improvements regarding communication with parents and families. As part of coproducing the written statement of action partners will seek to understand the current issues with communications and ensure improvements are made. The [local offer](#) will be improved to ensure that information is up to date, easy to find and helpful. The timeliness and quality of communication with parents and families will also be improved ensuring that they are responded to within reasonable timeframes.

8. What improvements to the EHCP process are you planning on making? I am on the 3rd attempt of assessment for my child who is now 14 (first attempt at 8yrs old) currently not in school due to needs not being met in school. Constant refusal to assess and there for us as parents are still having to fight not just for the EHCP but also for assessment for ASD/ADHD and also for therapy/support for our children. My child is diagnosed with ASD, OCD, mental health, anxiety, eating disorder and a rare genetic disorder that causes a moderate learning disability. Mainstream support is not adequate and specialist schools are not appropriate for their needs. What are the choices as parents to support a child with these needs as without an EHCP support is very much lacking?

Unfortunately, WCC is unable to answer fully on individual cases. However, the EHC needs assessment process is a statutory process in the Code of Practice – significant decisions throughout this statutory process are open to a route of redress i.e., mediation and tribunal. Alternative Provision should be used as a temporary measure. Un-registered alternative provision cannot be the substantive provision for a child or young person in receipt of an EHC plan.

9. Given that the report states "Several young people expressed some very negative views about their experiences in mainstream schools.", "The extent to which Warwickshire mainstream primary and secondary schools are inclusive is variable", "some schools lack the necessary expertise and understanding of how to support children and young people in their schools effectively" and "the lack of uptake of staff training for mainstream primary and secondary



school staff to help them understand and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND", why is it thought that children are incorrectly placed in specialist settings?

During the inspection the inspectors spoke directly with children and young people. They were able to articulate clearly their experiences of attending mainstream education and were clear on how they felt their special educational needs were not met. It is recognised that the workforce requires support to ensure they have the correct knowledge, understanding and skills to ensure most children with SEN can have their needs met within their local schools within the local communities. However, there is a recognition that some children and young people may need to be supported in special schools, and WCC will not be looking to take children that are already in special schools out to go into mainstream schools unless the child and the young person preference is to return to their local mainstream settings.

10. Are WCC preparing a support pathway for CYP who cycle from school to IP and back again or who fail to attend the mainstream school that's allocated to them (due to the new 10 wk limit?)

Whenever any CYP enters into any Independent Provision (IP) there will be an annual review that will determine whether this needs to be temporary offsite provision at AP or if a permanent placement change is required. If a permanent placement change is required, then this will result in a consultation process with other schools or independent registered settings where appropriate. When temporary AP including those that are unregistered is required this will be done for a period of a maximum of 10 weeks. An exit strategy will be set up at the point of entry and this will be reviewed throughout the 10-week period. The exit strategy will plan the transition pathway for those CYP moving forward including their reintegration.

11. Will you be taking children that are already in Special schools out to go to mainstream and will parents have a say in this?

WCC will not be looking to take children that are already in special schools out to go into mainstream schools unless the child and the young person preference is to return to their local mainstream settings.

12. I'd like my daughter to attend a local Warwickshire College site but I can't get the head of learning support to call me back. She has complex needs and I need to have a bespoke application process. I will ask SENDAR to help me next week but I wondered whether WCC can set up a formal pathway for YP with more complex needs to access the local college application system.

Thank-you, WCC will contact you directly to advise and support you on this matter. *(NB contact has already been made).*

13. What are you going to do to work with parents with those children who are already traumatised by the school system and have been failed by the Warwickshire team for a number of years?



It is recognised that early identification of needs is key, and a new programme is being developed to support this area. In the meantime, please contact us directly to advise and support you if needed at sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk

14. How quickly will you be actioning these areas of development? For example, annual reviews for end being updated in a timely manner. We are nearly 3 months since our review and no notice to amend let alone a more updated plan.

The areas of development will be actioned within the next 18 months and will be continually monitored and assessed. This includes improvements to the annual review process. In the meantime, if you have any concerns or queries, please contact sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk

15. in relation to the weakness around EHCPs not being reissued after annual reviews/not being re-issued in a timely manner (within 4 weeks), what will be done to remedy this and what is the timescale for this action? There are many families sat waiting for these currently, meaning many children with out of date plans still in situ, not receiving the support they require.

The Code of Practice states that a decision must be made within 4 weeks. The decision is whether to amend, cease or maintain the EHC plan. Once the decision is made the Code of Practice does not stipulate when the amendments need to be done by. Improvements to this area will be introduced over the next 18 months. In the meantime, if you have any concerns or queries, please contact sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk

16. How do you access the trauma-based support?

Please contact us directly from more information and support at sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk

17. Bearing in mind your inclusion policy, how would you view a special school head whose position is that they cannot meet a pupil's needs? What would be your preferred course of action there?

Please contact us directly to discuss this case at sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk

18. Will WCC be able to allocate more funding to fund the changes needed according to the report or will it be a case of moving current funds around?

Of the five areas of weakness identified, four are already included in the SEND and Inclusion Change Programme which has funding in place. Additional government funding is also being made available to support services around autism. Taking more of an early intervention approach will enable a more effective use of resources which can be reinvested into further improvements and services moving forward.

19. SEND National Crisis Warwickshire has offered to work with elected members to aid transparency, joint working and scrutiny. SCW is an expert-by-experience parent-led grass-



roots campaign and lobby group seeking to engage with all parts of SCW. To date, officers and Assistant Director leadership have refused to acknowledge our group, our work or our offer to work with elected members and officers. We invite Portfolio Holders, cross party members and senior WCC leads to co-work with SCW in any and all work going forward. Does the panel, in particular Portfolio Holders, welcome our offer and agree to meet with and work with SCW? warwickshiresendcrisis@gmail.com. SEND Crisis Warwickshire have been attempting to meet with you (Mark), Ian / Duane in order to improve communication. Will you commit to meeting with us?

WCC is committed to improving how children and young people and their families are involved both within the SEND and Inclusion Change Programme and across the Council. WCC are strengthening engagement and coproduction approaches, working with the newly formed Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice w. WCC would welcome working with parents through Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice to co-produce improvements to services.

20. At Square Peg we represent the 922k persistent absentees who have often been ignored and failed by the broken systems, left with little to no access to education or learning. I have offered our expertise to both Duane and Dan. It is unacceptable to develop a persistent absence pathway without co-producing it with those with lived experience. Please contact us to work with you. We are currently working with Leicestershire, Hull, Coventry, Derby, Essex & Notts LAs. www.teamsquarepeg.org ellie@teamsquarepeg.org

Thank-you. As stated above, we would welcome working with parents through Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice to co-produce improvements to services. WCC would like to reassure parents and carers that children and young people and their families will be involved in co-producing the pathway.