

## DfE updates and changes – June to July

### Education staff wellbeing charter – Guidance

1. An explanation of the education staff wellbeing charter and the benefits of using it. Updated the list of resources to help support staff wellbeing and mental health [Education staff wellbeing charter - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) update 08/05/24

2. Wiltshire's position:

The charter has been highlighted and discussed at Senior Mental Health Leads training and network meetings as well during governor training sessions on staff wellbeing, during the past 2 years.

### Transforming children and young people's mental health provision – Transparency Data

3. A summary of the delivery of commitments in the transforming children and young people's mental health provision green paper [Transforming children and young people's mental health provision - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Update 12/05/24

4. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire Council's Families and Childrens commissioning team are working closely with The Mental Health Support Team (MHST), commissioned by BSW ICB and provided by Oxford Health, to improve a system level response to supporting children's and young people's mental health. We have created links between the MHSTs, and Wiltshire Council SEND and Inclusion, School Effectiveness and Targeted Education to support the improved sharing of information and data to support increased referrals into the MHSTs and to increase awareness of the mental health support on offer. The Clinical Team Leader of Wiltshire Mental Health Support Team, recently attended the System of Excellence steering group to explain and share the current offer of support and future plans. This includes "Wave 12 funding" which will extend the offer of MHST to 39 additional schools, increasing the coverage of education settings from 26% to 40% and increasing the reach to pupils from 40% to over 60%. This funding, mobilisation and implementation will mean the offer is available in these new schools by January 2025. Additionally, the MHSTs will be increasing their SEND offer with the introduction of an additional SEND Emotional Mental Health Practitioner who will be working across 4 schools in BANES and Wiltshire.

### The power of music to change lives: a national plan for music education – Policy paper

5. Sets out our vision for music education and how this can be achieved through partnerships with schools, music hubs, the music and creative sector, and others [The power of music to change lives: a national plan for music education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) updated 15/05/24

6. Wiltshire's position: This policy is designed to engage schools to work with music hubs by way of introducing the national plan as part of the arts agenda on the curriculum. The emphasis is for schools to work with their music leads and create a plan that increases the offer to their pupils. This should increase inclusion for all abilities and households that face financial hardship. Wiltshire Music Connect has been outstanding at connecting with schools in Wiltshire and are

already working with 98% of the schools in Wiltshire which is considered exemplar. Wiltshire Music Connect are using the national plan focus to broaden the music offering in each school by encouraging music leads to work with the music associates and offer more varieties of music education in school. This could mean a school currently with a choir, now might be working with their associate to create a band or promote first access music tuition with individuals or in groups. The key is to offer more diversity in the music offer and Wiltshire Music Connect with its Music Associates across the County, are in a really good position to increase their positive outcomes further.

### Age limits introduced to protect children in RSHE – Press release

7. New age ratings to be introduced on Relationships, Sex and Health Education content in schools to ensure it is appropriately and sensitively taught [Age limits introduced to protect children in RSHE - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Published 16/05/24
8. Wiltshire's position:

Wiltshire schools have been informed about the proposed changes to the RSHE guidance through newsletters, online articles and network meetings this term. Schools have been encouraged to take part in the consultation and reminded that as the current statutory RSHE guidance from 2019 still applies, no changes to practice should be made until a final version of the guidance is published by the new government.

### Promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges - Guidance

9. Find out what help you can get to develop a whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing [Promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) updated 16/05/24
10. Wiltshire's position:

#### Senior Mental Health Lead Training

Senior Mental Health Lead training has been delivered by Wiltshire Council, on behalf of the DfE, to 134 Wiltshire schools & colleges. 220 Wiltshire schools and colleges have so far attended SMHL training from a range of providers (2021-2024). The DfE have recorded 206 Wiltshire settings that have claimed the grant of £1,200. SMHL grant take up: National 70%, South West 76%, Wiltshire 85% (May 2024).

Schools in Wiltshire, Swindon and B&NES are further supported by an ongoing series of local network meetings for Senior Mental Health Leads.

#### Wiltshire Healthy Schools Programme

Our local programme provides a framework for schools to implement a whole school approach to health and wellbeing, including a focus on emotional wellbeing and mental health. 132 schools are currently part of the Wiltshire Healthy Schools Programme, with 81 schools currently holding Wiltshire Healthy Schools accreditation (July 2024).

To support a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing the Council also provides a programme of Youth Mental Health First Aid training, subsidised by the ICB.

### **Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education – Guidance**

11. The Department for Education's (DfE) sustainability leadership and climate action plans initiative. Updated with support resources now available to nurseries, schools and colleges [Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sustainability-leadership-and-climate-action-plans-in-education) updated 20/05/24
12. Wiltshire's position: This non-statutory guidance was first made available to schools in May 2023. It has now been supplemented to include a digital hub of resources, services and tools to help schools identify appropriate action to develop, or build on, their climate action plans.

### **Period products in school and colleges – Guidance**

13. Guidance for schools and post-16 education organisations in England on providing free period products for pupils and students. Updated to reflect that, in April 2024, the scheme was extended and will continue to operate for the 2024 to 2025 academic year [Period products in schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/period-products-in-schools-and-colleges) updated 30/05/24
14. Wiltshire's position:  
  
This offer of support has been highlighted to Wiltshire schools. Promoting period and personal hygiene products in schools is a current priority for Wiltshire Youth Councillors. Youth Councillors want to note that this has been discussed at recent meetings and on secondary school Healthy Schools visits attended by Youth Councillors.