

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Children's Select Committee

Place: Online Meeting

Date: Tuesday 19 January 2021

Time: 10.30 am

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 11 January 2021 Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Kieran Elliott, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718504 or email kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

7 **Safeguarding (performance monitoring) (Pages 3 - 12)**

9 **Youth Voice update (Pages 13 - 22)**

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 12 January 2021

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Children's Select Committee

Ofsted Annual Conversation 11 November 2020

Under the ILACS (Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services) inspection framework Ofsted holds an '**annual conversation**' with local authorities, this is a formal discussion, in which the LA is required to share a self -evaluation and up to date performance information.

This power-point includes a summary of the key information that Ofsted included in their letter to the Council following the meeting in November.

Social Care

Ofsted reports that Wiltshire:

- Has a stable and experienced workforce, and a low reliance on agency staff. Similarly, the senior leadership team in Wiltshire is highly experienced and long serving.
- Has not needed to implement revised practice standards as a result of Covid, and the only flexibilities applied were those in relation to fostering panels. In common with many other authorities, Wiltshire saw an initial drop in contacts and referrals, but these have since increased and are now back to pre Covid-19 levels. During the current crisis Wiltshire has been proactive in promoting children's visibility to the public.
- Has taken action in response to the recommendations from the last Ofsted inspection, and report that this has had a positive impact on relation to health services for children in care and referrals from individuals who are providing private fostering arrangements.
- Has positive, and improving, performance data. Ofsted did question the proportion of children subject to section 47 enquiries who do not go on to become subject of an initial child protection plan. We confirmed that performance was within our expected parameters and stronger than both Eng and Stat Neighbours average) .
- Has strong placement stability for children in care and that most children live with foster carers. Ofsted were interested to hear about our current foster carer recruitment campaign to develop the local in-house fostering service. Ofsted agreed it is important that children living away from home in stable placements are not moved without good reason.
- Ofsted were interested to hear about the new or developing work being undertaken in Wiltshire for example, the family led review of child protection processes and work with fathers, and have asked for feedback on this with a view to sharing learning regionally.

Early Years

Ofsted reports that Wiltshire:

- Has been successful in ensuring that every child who needed an early years place in the first lockdown period was able to access one and that there has been a successful return to settings with 86% of early years settings now open.
- Is monitoring the impact of the pandemic on settings carefully. The 'Team around the setting' approach is being implemented to support increased attendance and to ensure vulnerable children have continued access to early education.
- Has seen a drop in the uptake of funded early education. Just over 200 less two-year-olds and 300 less three-year-olds are accessing their entitlement compared to last year. Wiltshire believe that some families are anxious about sending their children to a setting and are choosing to keep them at home instead. Officers are working with children's social care colleagues and using communication via social media to increase parental awareness of the benefits of early education.
- Reports that the financial viability of settings is a cause for concern. While settings currently continue to be funded at 2019 rates, the drop in take-up will impact on the level of funding some settings receive next year. Wiltshire are preparing for this by working with local colleges to develop an early years workforce strategy. This strategy promotes early education as a viable a career option and aims to improve staff retention in the sector.

Education

Ofsted reports that Wiltshire:

- Has been a strong, collaborative approach from all stakeholders, including leaders of multi-academy trusts. Wiltshire has provided schools with support and advice with concerns such as dealing with outbreaks, risk assessment and remote learning.
- Has put a strong emphasis on ensuring that vulnerable pupils are in school. Leaders are playing their part and reporting attendance daily to the local authority. Over time, there was a steady increase in attendance of vulnerable groups during the summer term. Rates of attendance for all pupils are currently above the national average.
- Has focused on strengthening inclusion in schools. This includes keeping a close watch on school exclusions. Secondary schools have committed to ensuring that there are no permanent exclusions. Wiltshire has recently agreed to give secondary school leaders control over deciding how funding will be used to support pupils who need alternative provision. In primary schools, there have been no permanent exclusions this term, however, up until this point there had been an increase over the last academic year.
- Is continuing its work to review Wiltshire's special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) inclusion strategy. Partners, including schools, have worked to identify three priorities. These rightly focus on ensuring that children's wide-ranging needs are fully met, that inclusion and children's well-being is at the heart of work, and that pupils make good progress and benefit from well-planned transitions.
- In further education and skills, there is a focus on supporting the most vulnerable young people. Those most at risk of dropping out from education and employment have been identified and are provided with bespoke support to highlight pathways that get these young people back into education or employment. Adapted careers advice is online and available to support young people at this time.

Ofsted Annual Conversation and summary of self-assessment

1. Background

1.1 Under the ILACS inspection framework Ofsted arrange an annual conversation with every local authority. In Wiltshire our annual conversation was held in November 2020. In preparation for the meeting we shared our latest self-assessment and performance data for children's social care.

1.2 This short report provides a summary of the key elements from the self-assessment including the performance data, that we shared with Ofsted. A separate power point presentation has been prepared which summarises the key points from the letter we received from Ofsted following the annual conversation (attached Appendix 1).

1.3 Ofsted use the annual conversation as an opportunity to scrutinise performance, service development and progress on any actions set at the last inspection. This assists Ofsted in determining the timing and scope of any subsequent inspection activity. Feedback received from Ofsted at the end of the annual conversation was positive, they noted continuing strong performance including throughout the Covid period.

2. Highlights from self-assessment

2.1 Families and Children are central to our approach in Wiltshire. We are ambitious for them, for our staff and leaders and together we are determined to ensure all Wiltshire families thrive.

2.2 In June 2019 Ofsted undertook a Children's Services inspection. Their findings largely mirrored our self-assessment. Ofsted reported that through 'strong political and corporate support, senior leaders have succeeded in stabilising the workforce and giving social workers the time they need to work purposefully with families and children' they went on to say that 'there have been significant improvements since the last inspection in 2015' and as a result 'the local authority has improved its services for children and offers a consistently good response to families and children'.

2.3 Since this time, we have remained focussed on further improvement and have not diverted from this despite the challenges the Covid pandemic have presented.

2.4 With strong, passionate political, strategic and operational leadership, and a robust culture of learning and self-evaluation we retain a thorough knowledge of our strengths and areas for development. Our relentless attention to improve our services and multi-agency partnerships over recent years has enabled us to deliver consistently good services that ensure that the needs of families and children are met at the right time by the right people.

2.5 The Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership (SVPP) created following the cessation of the LSCB has developed well, it continues to be led by our Independent Chair who has been with the partnership for the past four years.

2.6 Quality data and performance information at all strategic and operational levels remains strong. Our performance and quality assurance frameworks are closely interwoven and provide opportunity for intelligent challenge and feed directly into our commissioning and Recovery and Transformation Programmes.

2.7 Our ambitious and innovative Families and Children Transformation programme (FACT) has recently been reviewed to ensure we remain focussed on the correct partnership priorities. The Executive programme board is chaired by the Director of Children's Services, with the Chief Operating Officer of the CCG as Vice Chair. The programme has five driving principles:

- Resilient communities with Equity of Opportunity
- Help when you need it
- We are Better Together
- More time to be with Families
- Investing in our Staff

2.8 Our staff are our most important resource and a core strategic priority has been the establishment of a motivated, stable, well trained and supported workforce. At the core of our practice is a shared value base that ensures that decisions we make are always for the betterment of the most vulnerable in our community. Our practice model promotes child-centred and relationship-based practice, and we are systematically developing this approach. We have clear career development opportunities and investment has supported our aim to deliver manageable caseloads and the effective recruitment and development of staff and leaders. This is supported by a strong workforce development programme that promotes continuous development for all staff, with a focus on improving practice and outcomes for children.

2.9 We operate a well-established multi-agency arrangement via our Integrated Front Door which includes our MASH, Early Support Hub and the Emergency Duty Service. Referrals for early help and targeted support receive the same level of attention and management oversight as referrals for safeguarding services. The service facilitates families and professionals in accessing support within the council's 'no wrong door' principle. Our approach is based on a conversation-based threshold that supports our principle of warm handovers. We are committed to removing any 'refer on' culture and working instead to ensure professionals are having the 'right conversation at the right time' to enable families to access services that meet their needs. To support this approach we introduced the Early Help Navigator (EHN) role in June 2020, the EHN's are developing an in-depth understanding of the community partnerships within Wiltshire, acting as a central point of contact for early support referrals and providing families with appropriate information or introducing them to the relevant support locally.

2.10 There is a clear focus on providing support at the earliest opportunity for families. In 2017, we strengthened the local authority's Early Help offer with the deployment of Family Key Workers with the introduction of the Support and Safeguarding Service.

2.11 The Institute of Public Care (IPC) at Oxford Brookes University was commissioned to undertake a review of Wiltshire's arrangements to support and safeguard children and vulnerable families, this review was completed in September 2019, it reported:

- The service is generally providing a good, sometimes excellent service to local families who are vulnerable.
- Overall good to excellent engagement with families.
- A very high proportion of good to excellent assessments across both statutory and family support cohorts.
- In many cases and in some parts of the County in particular, the plan generated a 'gripping intervention' for families, in particular where there was regular contact with the social worker / key worker.

2.12 We are now launching the Wiltshire Early Support Assessment to further strengthen our early support offer in Wiltshire as well as working with partners via our recovery programme to further enhance the earliest support offer to families.

2.13 Following investment we have delivered the first phases of one integrated case management system (CMS), replacing five existing ones. We are ambitious to work with our partners in maximising the use of this holistic system including partner engagement with both our new Early Support Assessment and the Graded Care Profile 2 which will be used within the new CMS System.

2.14 The quality of frontline social work practice is assured by an established auditing framework, with a robust moderation process and linkage to targeted learning and improvement. Our own observation and auditing of front-line practice tells us that the detail of case recording of practice and management oversight does not always capture the detail of high-quality direct work and frequent reflective discussions, while we are focussed on developing this further, we know that our social workers do prioritise contact time with families and know them and their needs well.

2.15 Our greatest passion is in our role as Corporate Parent. All leaders and staff are ambitious for, and work to support our children to realise their full potential. We know our children and have strong relationships with them. We are determined in our efforts to support children to live well within their own families.

2.16 In addition to a range of existing services including a successful PAUSE programme and Family Group Conferencing within our transformation programme we have, with our partners, developed the Stronger Families Service (similar to the No Wrong Door approach) to work alongside a dedicated young people's service ensuring our young people access the help they need at the right time and from the right place. We applied and were successful in securing an opportunity to work with the University of Bedfordshire to embed a Contextual Safeguarding approach across Wiltshire from 2019-2022.

2.17 Where our children require care outside of their family, we are working to ensure there is an increased level of sufficiency of provision to match well and keep our children close to home. Our level of stability is a strength. Children and young people are encouraged to keep themselves safe and there is an effective multi-agency approach to addressing risks such as sexual and criminal exploitation and missing. We have a successful Virtual School, and many of our young people are achieving good educational outcomes. We are dedicated to ensuring the health outcomes for our children and we have worked closely with our colleagues across the health economy to improve the timeliness and delivery of initial health assessments.

2.18 The Care Leavers Offer has been an area of focus for us to ensure better outcomes for our young people, with improved access to a stable home, a good education and opportunities for employment. Reflecting good results at A level, BTec and other relevant qualifications, there were 23 young people with confirmed university or higher education places this year. We know

our young people are increasingly living in good quality accommodation. Our stable Personal Advisers group form positive and lasting relationships with our Care Leavers and our In-touch performance remains strong. The Care Leavers Promise unanimously passed in October 2018 has received positive feedback from Care Leavers (the Promise delivers council tax exemption, priority housing, apprenticeships, free leisure passes, etc) however we are aspirational and are developing this further. We are looking forward to supportive challenge when we will welcome the DfE Care Leaver Adviser to Wiltshire, unfortunately this has been delayed due to Covid restrictions, it is currently scheduled for February 2021. Through additional investment we recently launched a downloadable care leaver app for mobile phones which was co-produced in partnership with care experienced young people to ensure it meets their needs. A reference group including care experienced young people and personal advisors have taken on responsibility for ensuring the app is updated and truly accessible to young people. We remain passionate in Wiltshire about our people, our partnerships and our practice. Whilst we are proud that our support to families is consistently good and effective in safeguarding children and securing good outcomes, we aspire to be the most effective service and are confident we are on this trajectory.

3. Context of increased demand and improved performance

3.1 Wiltshire has experienced the same demand pressures that have been felt nationally:



3.2 In the Ofsted inspection in 2015 our overall grading was one of Requires Improvement to be Good, since then we have worked relentlessly to improve practice and, ultimately, outcomes for children and families. This progress was recognised by Ofsted in the Children’s Services inspection in June 2019 when we were graded Good in all areas. Since this time and despite the continuing increased pressures as evidence in the graphic above, we have sustained or improved performance across the majority of key performance areas:

Indicator	2018/19 (Q4, FY or 31 Mar snapshot)	Current position
Agency staff	66	23 (Sept 2020)
Missing Return Interviews completed	48%	76% in Q1 20/21
Re-referral rate	15%	19.4% Year End 19/20. 18.9% Aug-20
Single Assessments within 45 days	74%	81% CIN Census 19/20. 87% Q1 20/21
Private Fostering notifications followed up within 7 days	82%	90% in 19/20, 100% in Q1 20/21
S47s recommend ICPC	33%	46% Q1 20/21
S47s over 21 days of Strategy Discussion	5%	0% since Q3 19/20
ICPCs within 15 days of Strategy Discussion	85%	93% CIN Census 19/20. 94% in Q1 20/21
RCPCs within timescales	93%	97% CIN Census 19/20. 99% in Q1 20/21
CP visits on time under new 2 weekly practice standards	83%	87% Year End 19/20. 94% Q1 20/21
Repeat CP Plan	25%	18% CIN Census 19/20. 17% Q1 20/21
CP Plan ceased over 2 years	5.3%	3.3% CIN Census 19/20. 0% Q1 20/21
CLA 2-year stability	75-77%	77% CLA Census 19/20. 79% in Q1 20/21
CLA placed more than 20 miles from home	34%	34% CLA Census 19/20.
CLA 18 months+ in long term arrangements	66%	67% Year End 20/21
CLA placed out of county	25%	33% CLA Census 19/20. 29% in Q1 20/21
Pathway/Care plans in place	52%	99% Q1 20/21
CLA Reviews on time	81%	100% Q1 20/21
CLA participating in Reviews	75%	96% Q1 20/21
Child into care to moving in with adoptive family (days)	377 (16-19)	346 days (17-20)

4. Areas for continuing improvement

Through self-assessment the following areas for continuing improvement were shared with Ofsted and are now being taken with directorates with progress reported to Performance and Outcomes Board.

- Educational outcomes for vulnerable groups including family and community learning
- Partnership development of our shared early support infrastructure and embedding our new Early Support Assessment
- Whole life pathway service delivery including transitional safeguarding
- Integrated children's commissioning across health and social care
- Voice – having further impact and influence including outcome focused performance framework

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

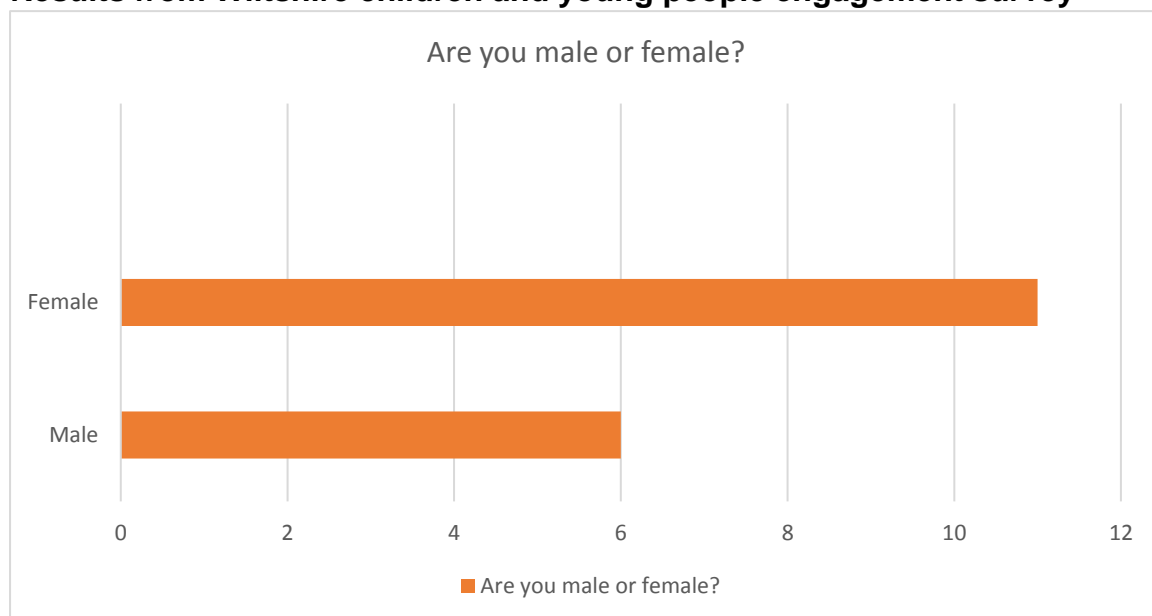
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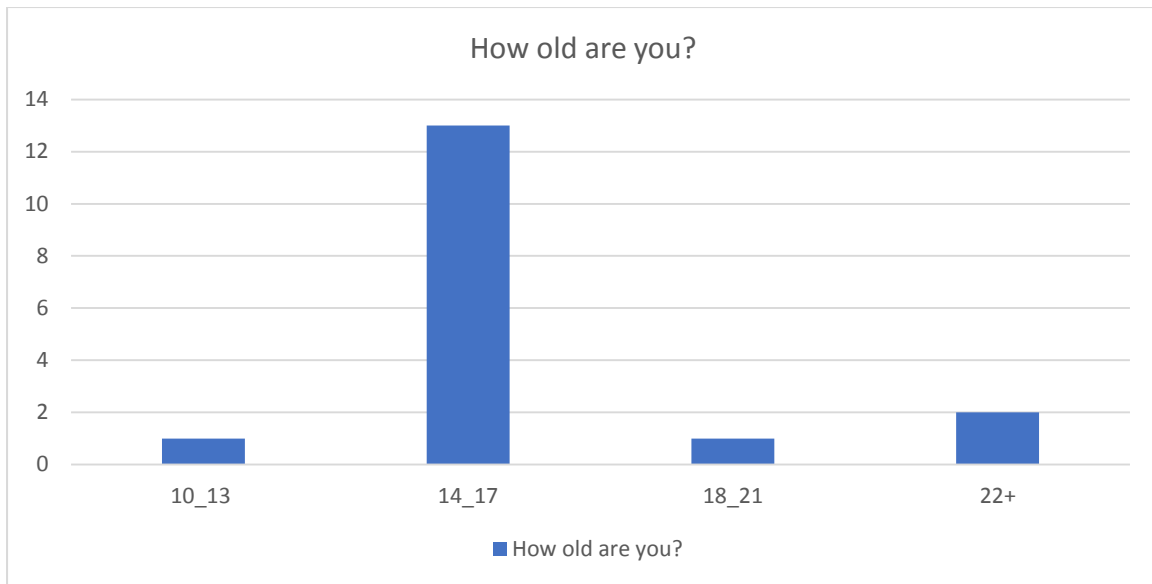
Covid-19 Learning – Youth Voice Survey

Introduction

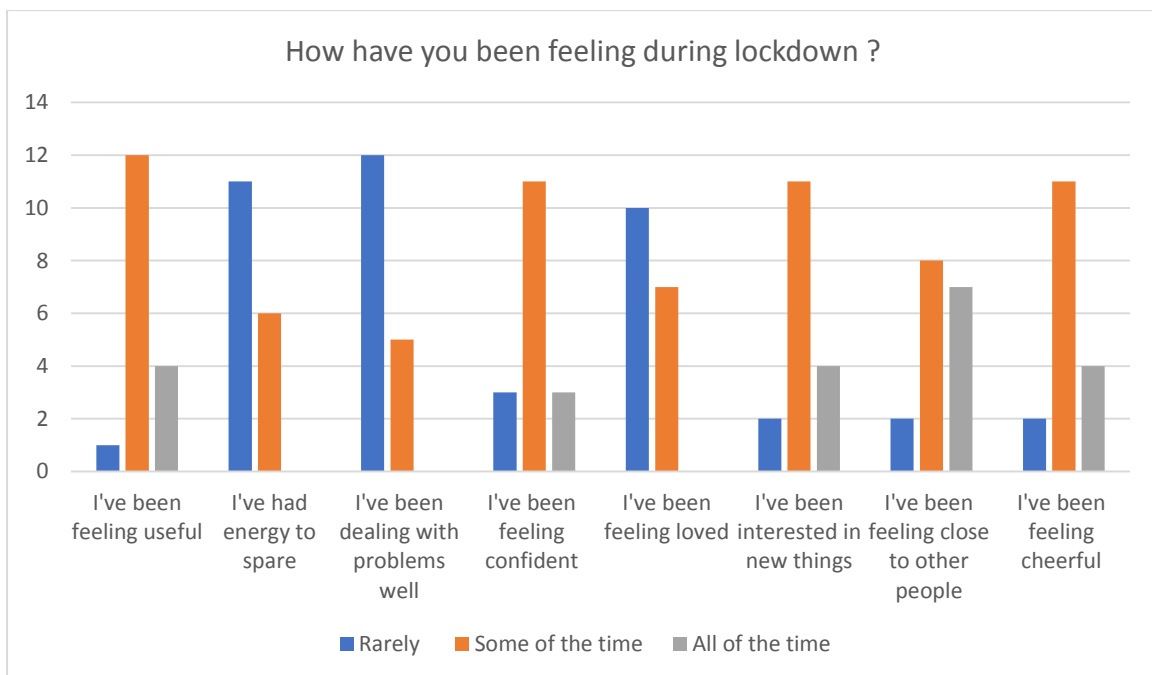
1. During COVID-19 children and young people have needed to manage a unique situation, with many restrictions placed upon them, and they have not been able to continue their lives as normal. We want to learn from our young people about how they have felt during this time, so we can agree ways to support them as we emerge from such tight restrictions and move to a new normal.
2. In the summer, as part of this work, the Families and Children's Commissioning team surveyed the young people who form the Wiltshire Youth Union (including Children in Care Council (CiCC), Members of the Youth Parliament (MYP's), and the Care Leavers Forum). We received 17 responses from the members, and the results are below.

Results from Wiltshire children and young people engagement survey



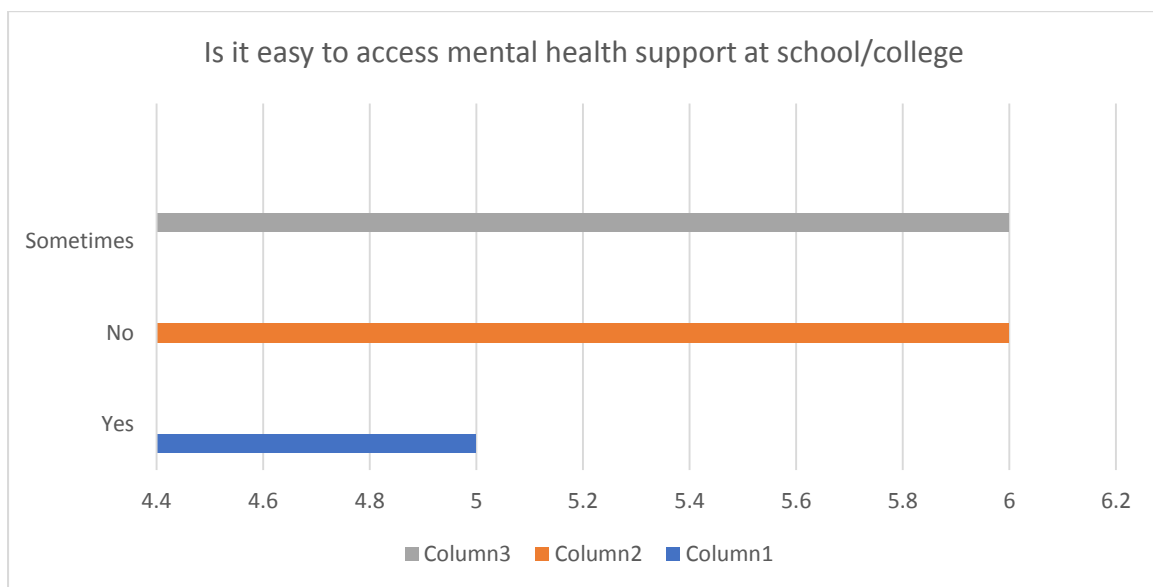


- As you can see, we received responses from more females than males, and the majority of respondents were between 14 – 17 which is in line with the overall gender and age range of the members.

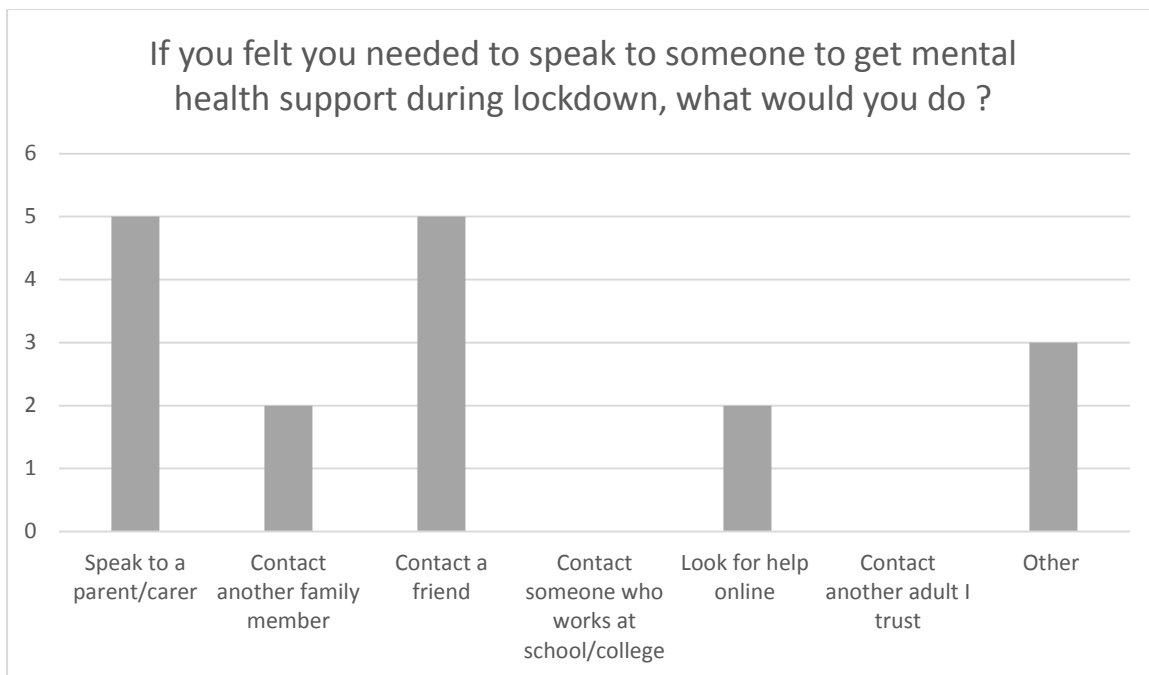


- The children and young people were asked a range of questions in relation to how they were feeling during lockdown, which was the most testing time during COVID-19, where movements were restricted the most.
- The results of the survey suggest relative confidence and positivity from the majority of young people who responded, with most of them feeling useful, confident, cheerful, and interested in new things, and with almost half feeling close to others all of the time. However, there are three main areas where the responses from young people were less positive and include 'I've had energy to spare', 'I've been dealing with problems well' and 'I've been feeling loved'.

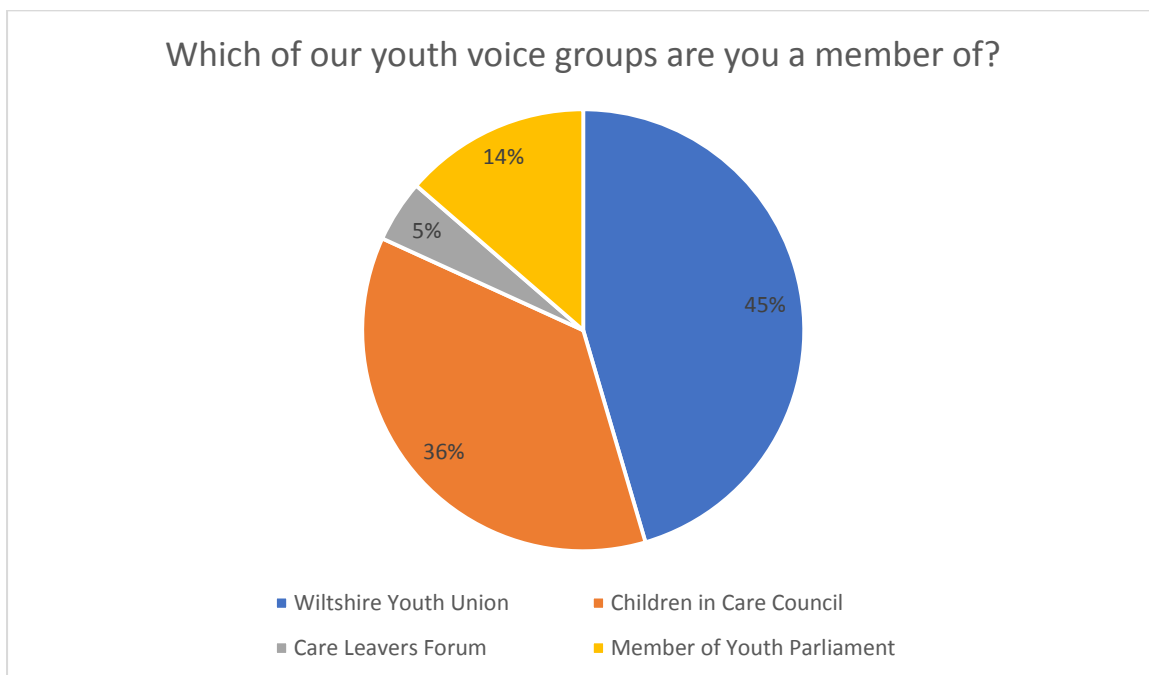
6. It could be said that 'not having energy to spare' is indicative of a wide range of people during lockdown of all ages, however this could lead to young people feeling cooped up and bored. The feedback on the other 2 areas suggesting the majority of children and young people were rarely 'dealing with problems well', and rarely 'feeling loved' are of particular concern.
7. We have explored the results further with young people since the results were received, so we can better understand what has led to these feelings, and there are further details at the end of the report. We are working together with our operational teams, and our children and young people to improve these areas and enable these young people to deal with challenging situations better in the future, especially if there are further lockdowns or restrictions.



8. The responses suggest that accessing mental health support in school has not been easy. Young people in the past have stated that they are often unsure on who to go, and the results of this survey echo those comments. Only 5 young people reported that accessing mental health services was easy.



9. It is interesting to note that no young people responded to say that they would choose to contact their school or college, or another trusted adult for mental health support, but preferred to speak to a parent or carer, or contact a friend. This reflects on the previous question, when the young people stated that accessing mental health support at their school / college was not easy in most cases.



10. The table above shows the breakdown of the groups that the young people who responded are members of.

Experiences During Covid-19

11. As part of the survey, we asked young people to let us know some of the positives and negatives of their Covid-19 experience, and their responses are below.

What have been the positives of the lockdown period for you?

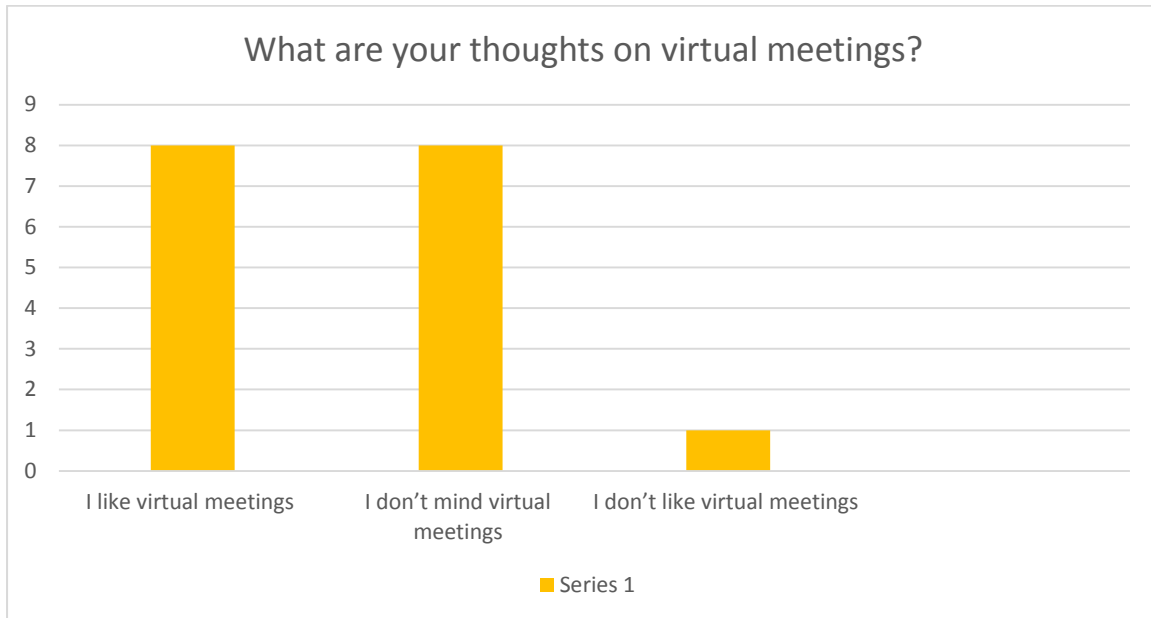
- ✓ I've spent a lot of time running
- ✓ Having virtual meetings with friends
- ✓ Developing new habits like cycling
- ✓ A chance to focus on my mental health
- ✓ Being able to have some down time to organise my flat and see my boyfriend whilst following government guidelines
- ✓ Being at home and being able to relax and go out when it is sunny to play in the garden
- ✓ I have been able to increase my capacity in volunteering and take the time to discover new interests
- ✓ Going back to work
- ✓ More time to spend with family
- ✓ I've been making stuff
- ✓ I've been able to have some down time
- ✓ Having time to be creative and record my album without having to think about revising
- ✓ I have been able to get higher grades through school work
- ✓ More time to focus on what I want to do in the future
- ✓ Having more time to reflect on what I was doing and mechanisms to cope
- ✓ Getting back at school for 2 days a week so I can see my friends and do sport get more quality time with family and getting more training in for races when I return

What have been the negatives of the lockdown period for you?

- × I'm not getting contacted by my school as often as I want
- × Not being able to see friends in person
- × Not clear about what's happening with school
- × Not able to see friends
- × The schedule is far too relaxed without attending school in person
- × Being in a psychiatric hospital
- × Not being able to see my friends and sometimes family. Having to stay inside.
- × Not being able to travel to family and meet in person, until recently
- × Staying in with family
- × Missing friends and routine
- × I've been locked in my house and not being allowed to see my friends for 3 months
- × I have been in a mental health inpatient hospital
- × Not being able to see my friends and go to cafes etc
- × I've been very bored
- × Missing friends/family, not being able to go out much

- × GCSEs being cancelled, being stuck inside, feeling down and lost
- × Feeling upset, angrier, feeling like I will give up on school work and not do well at GCSEs

Meetings



12. Our young people have responded well to virtual meetings and are used to communicating digitally with other people. As a result of their responses above, we will be having regular virtual meetings with our youth voice groups. Young people suggested they enjoy virtual meetings and like to use them as a chance to catch up with other members. The social aspect of meetings is important to young people, so we will make sure that there are still opportunities for them to meet face to face and will be discussing the structure of future meetings with the groups involved.

Follow Up

13. Further meetings with the young people involved in the survey were held in the Autumn, to discuss the main areas of concern in the survey, and other areas of the survey. We wanted to better understand why young people had these feelings and wanted to support them in improving these feelings.

14. **'Dealing with a problem'** proved to be challenging for young people and we explored this further. Young people suggested that they would usually seek support from their friends or family, but this was a lot more difficult for them during the lockdown period. Despite being able to connect with people virtually, young people highlighted the importance of face to face contact with their friends and family and a lack of this during the lockdown period made it difficult for young people to deal with some problems. Some of the young people who are still in school said that there was a lot of support put in place

at their schools especially from the pastoral teams however the level of support dropped off during the summer holidays:

'There was a lot interaction with school at the beginning of lockdown and it was really helpful for me to be in regular contact with teachers'

15. **'Feeling loved'** was also an area of concern for young people, and their feedback to this was similar to why they felt they found it hard to deal with problems, during lockdown, with the lack of interaction making young people feel isolated from their friends. Although contact was constant during the early stages of lockdown, some felt that this dropped off significantly as lockdown went on. On a more positive note, other members shared that being in lockdown with family improved their relationships and brought them closer together:

'A lot of my interaction is in person at school and there are people who are in the same situation, a lot of people who do socialise this way have missed out'

16. There were various reasons why young people felt they **did not have energy to spare**. A common reason that was mentioned by young people was that adjusting to being at home all the time was difficult. For some young people it was demotivating, and they felt there was nothing to feel excited or energised about. However, their views towards this question changed as some lockdown restrictions were eased. Other young people felt that the lockdown was refreshing and gave them energy and they used it as a chance to learn a new skill/hobby:

'I had more energy to do things, it was a good opportunity to pick up new skills that that I usually wouldn't have time for'

17. During our meetings with young people discussing these results, we asked **'what do you need now?'** to understand what support Wiltshire Council and schools could provide to our young people to help improve their emotional wellbeing and mental health. One care leaver felt they didn't know what support was available to them and they were excited after hearing about the care leavers app. Since the meeting the care leavers app has been launched and promoted across teams and it is available to download on android and apple devices. Young people once again highlighted the importance of virtual meetings and stressed they would like these to continue as they are.

18. As a result of the survey being shared with colleagues within the Council, including operational colleagues and Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs), there has been a raised awareness of the needs and feelings of children and young people, and teams are working to make sure that they feel better supported. The information has also been shared with schools to raise awareness of the challenges faced by children and young people.

19. As part of ongoing work, Wiltshire has also launched an App for care leavers. This is being used to share information with young people, and to exchange messages between workers and young people. There is also the facility to obtain views of care leavers through a survey function on the App, which will help to ensure that we continue to shape services to meet the needs of our young people and improve their outcomes. A user group has also been developed, where care leavers are able to work with the council to develop the App to ensure it meets their needs.

Members of the Youth Parliament (MYPs)

20. In July 2019, the British Youth Council announced that:

Following a consultation with LAs, the Steering Group have decided to extend the 20/21 Members of Youth Parliament (MYP) term by one year. It will now run from March 2020 - February 2022. Obviously if any of the young people decide to withdraw from their current position an election would be required, but there is not any intention to hold further elections for 2021.

Service Changes

21. The budget and responsibility for Youth Voice is transferring from Commissioning to the Service for Quality Outcomes for Children and Families, alongside our IRO service. We are creating a new Child and Youth Voice Team to take forward this agenda and ensure it is at the heart of all services for children across the Council.

22. We are recruiting to two new permanent posts; a Child and Youth Voice Lead and a Child Voice Support worker who will be managed by an Operational Lead under a 6-month secondment which is intended to become permanent. We hope to have staff in the new posts by the end of February when we will be in a position start to implement our plan for Youth Voice that aims to achieve the following 5 strategic objectives

- I. Engagement and participation of young people is maximised in the youth groups and forums such as the Youth Union, Children in Care Council and Care Leaver's Forum.
- II. Young people are empowered and enabled to have a strong voice and are supported to research other young peoples lived experiences, perceptions and insights across Wiltshire to shape service development of the Council and its partners.
- III. Young people are involved in scrutinising and inspecting services across Wiltshire.
- IV. Young People are supported to work directly with leaders and decision-makers to influence change from senior levels and cascade through the organisation

- V. Deliver on Wiltshire Council's commitment to listening to young people and making sure they are at the centre of services for children and young people
23. By taking a co-production approach, we will continue to develop a strong culture of listening and participation in Wiltshire, that enables children and young people from a diverse range of backgrounds to influence positive change within the organisation. We will support children and young people to influence decisions made about services delivered to them, empowering to have their say and make a difference.

Oxford University Survey

24. During May-June 2020, Wiltshire schools were able to take part in a modified version of our [Health and Wellbeing Survey](#), adapted by collaborators at the University of Oxford and Foster and Brown to the challenges of COVID-19 and school closure.
25. The survey involved schools from counties including: East Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, and was for pupils in years 4-13 and had 3 versions for different ages: (years 4-7, years 8-11, years 12-13)
26. The aim of the survey was to help inform schools of how lockdown is impacting the well-being and learning of their pupils, and results were similar to the survey of our Wiltshire Youth Union members.
27. This version of the survey is part of a study that has been approved by the University of Oxford Research Ethics Committee, [details can be found here](#).

Conclusion

28. It is apparent from the responses we have received that many young people have been coping well during Covid-19, although a number of challenges have also been identified. This has prompted further discussions with the young people to better understand what the Council can do to make them feel more supported and able to overcome the challenges they face. A key issue is to ensure that there is easy access to mental health support when young people need it.
29. It is hoped that a combination of the new Care Leavers App, a raised awareness of the issues across the organisation and schools, and the new Youth Voice team will be able to help young people cope with life better, and support them to achieve more positive outcomes.

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