

Wiltshire Council

Children Select Committee

17 January 2023

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## **DfE updates and changes – October 2022 to January 2023**

### **Creating sustainable high needs systems**

1. Information on how local authorities can manage their high needs systems and associated spending in a sustainable way. Change made: Guidance on our intervention work with local authorities' document updated to reflect latest progress on the Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV) programme including list of participating authorities and an updated list of Sector Steering Group (SSG) members [Link](#) (updated 18/10/23)
2. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire is taking part in the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme.

### **Local skills improvement plans**

3. Statutory guidance for the development and review of local skills improvement plans (LSIPs). Change made: Updated statutory guidance [Link](#) (updated 19/10/22)
4. Wiltshire's position: Business West won the tender for the LSIP for Swindon and Wiltshire. They are working closely with the LEP Skills and Talent Board to agree priorities.

### **Support for apprentices with a learning difficulty or disability**

5. Information for apprenticeship providers about reasonable adjustments for apprentices with learning difficulties and disabilities [Link](#) (published 19/10/22)
6. Wiltshire's position: This information is being shared through Employment and Skills and the Careers Hub with businesses and business representative organisations.

### **£180 million to improve children's development in the early years**

7. Thousands of early years professionals will benefit from investment to drive quality and training, and to better support the next generation of children [Link](#) (published 20/10/22)
8. Wiltshire's position: We are advertising all of the support and training on offer and recommending settings to receive support to the DfE and programme partners. Information has been sent out via direct emails, newsletters, social media and Right Choice.

### **Statistics: pupil absence**

9. Statistics on overall authorised and unauthorised pupil absences by school type, including persistent absentees and pupil characteristics. Change made: Added 'Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn 2021 and spring 2022'. [Link](#) (updated 20/10/22)

10. Wiltshire's position: Absence for Autumn term 2021-2022 in Wiltshire was higher than national but lower than regional averages. Attendance for pupils with EHCP was better than both national and regional. Pupils with SEN Support status had better attendance on average than pupils across the South West, but lower than national average attendance.

### **Pupil Premium**

11. Information on pupil premium funding, how school leaders can use it effectively and pupil premium strategy statements. Change made: 'Use of the pupil premium' section has been updated to reference the menu of approaches and the 'Service pupil premium' section has been updated to correct inaccuracies in 'Pupil premium: overview'. 'Pupil premium strategy statement template' and 3 example statements have been updated [Link](#) (updated 27/10/22)

12. Wiltshire's position: The Council have provided updates for Heads Newsletters on the changes and most schools sign up to the DfE update service which provides the necessary information and changes.

### **Promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges**

13. Find out what help you can get to develop a whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing. Change made: A link has been added to the guidance on promoting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. Further detail on the increased numbers of Mental Health Support Teams from 2024 has also been included [Link](#) (updated 28/11/22)

14. Wiltshire's position:

To support these current national government initiatives:

- We provide the [Wiltshire Healthy Schools programme](#) to encourage, support and accredit local schools to take a whole school approach to health and wellbeing. [The programme currently engages 125 schools](#), 62 hold current accreditation.
- Wiltshire, working with B&NES and Swindon, has been delivering a DfE assured programme of [Senior Mental Health Leads training](#) to local schools and colleges since 2021. This 1 ½ days of training, with ongoing network meetings, enables education settings to sustain a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing. The training also enables most education providers to claim the DfE grant.
  - In total 163 Wiltshire schools and colleges have attended this training
  - During 2021-2022 our local training was attended by 111 Wiltshire schools and colleges
  - 52 Wiltshire schools have accessed this training from another national provider
  - 20 schools have booked to attend Wiltshire training from January 2023

144 Wiltshire schools and colleges have so far claimed the DfE grant of £1,200, [according to data published by the DfE](#) - a total of £170,800 for Wiltshire schools.

- In addition to the DfE resources to support RSHE, Wiltshire provides a range of CPD and network meetings to support schools teach [PSHE/RSHE education](#). So far this year, 60 schools have attended CPD events focussing on this curriculum area.
- In Wiltshire we have three [Mental Health Support Teams](#) and will bid for more national resources to expand this local support, when the next opportunity arises.
- We have promoted the free national online [Psychological First Aid training](#) and [other mental health and wellbeing resources](#) to schools as well as a range of additional [support available locally](#). This includes an ongoing programme of [Youth Mental Health First Aid training](#) for schools, Foster Carers, Wiltshire Council staff, Youth Councillors and those from other agencies that work with young people aged 8-18. Our Early Help offer of mental health support for young people, which also links to CAMHS and other support services, can be found at [On Your Mind](#).

### **Children looked after in England including adoption: 2021 to 2022**

15. Information on looked-after children at both national and local authority levels for the financial year 2021 to 2022 [Link](#) (published 17/11/22)

16. Wiltshire's position: The budgeted number of children in care for 2022-23 financial year is 434. The actual number of children in care at Q2 end was 464. Our number of children in care is within target range currently and has not seen the sharp increases other Local Authorities have. This is due to the successful prevention and early support services preventing such escalation of needs. There does however remain a small, predicated increase in demand which is being discussed as part of wider budget considerations.

### **Early years stronger practice hubs**

17. Information for early years practitioners about stronger practice hubs. Change made: Guidance updated, including details of the successful first round hubs [Link](#) (updated 18/11/22)

18. Wiltshire's position: The Stronger practice hubs have now been announced. We do not have any physical hubs in Wiltshire, but settings will be able to get support from them with the closest hubs being based in Bristol. These are funded for the next 2 years until late 2024.

### **National school breakfast club programme**

19. How eligible schools can apply for support for breakfast club provision [Link](#) (published 24/11/22)

20. Wiltshire's position: This information has been sent out in the newsletter and an article on Right Choice. Applications are now open for schools to put forward an expression of interest for the provision.

## **Apprenticeships and traineeships: November 2022**

21. Apprenticeships and traineeships statistics covering the 2021 to 2022 academic year in England, with additional official statistics relevant to the apprenticeship service [Link](#) (published 24/11/22)

22. Wiltshire's position:

### **Wiltshire Apprenticeships**

#### **19-24**

Over the past 3 years both the achievements and starts in apprenticeships have decreased. Whilst this may not be surprising given the pandemic, it is contrary to the pattern seen in South West and national starts overall.

Wiltshire 19-24 starts decreased from 1750 in 2019/20 to 1530 in 2021/22, a decrease of 12.6%, whilst, achievements decreased by a quarter; from 900 to 680.

#### **Under 19**

Meanwhile, under 19 apprenticeship starts in Wiltshire increased by 4.4% over the period 2019/20 to 2021/22, and this is a greater increase than that seen nationally (1.6%) and regionally (0.7%).

Achievements over this same period though, closely followed the national and regional and decreased by just over a quarter- 27.7%, compared to the SW (22%) and nationally (27%).

## **Permanent exclusions and suspensions in England: autumn term 2021 to 2022**

23. Levels of permanent exclusion and suspension in the autumn term 2021 to 2022 by school type, and reasons for exclusions and suspensions [Link](#) (published 24/11/22)

24. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire's permanent exclusion rate for autumn term 2021/22 was 0.0%, compared to a national rate of 0.03%. Wiltshire's suspension rate for the same period was 2.25%, compared to a national rate of 2.21% and a regional rate of 2.65%.

## **Multiplication tables check attainment: 2022**

25. Information on the 2022 multiplication tables check, including breakdowns by pupil characteristics, at national and local authority level [Link](#) (published 24/11/22)

26. Wiltshire's position: This information has been sent out in the newsletter in terms of Headline information, further information will be shared at Heads Briefings.

## **CO2 monitors and air cleaning units for education settings – reminder**

27. Last year, the Department for Education (DfE) provided carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) monitors for 50% of teaching spaces in state-funded education settings. DfE will now be providing additional CO<sub>2</sub> monitors for the remaining 50% of classrooms, to help balance ventilation with energy costs.

Good ventilation in education settings remains important, both for managing the transmission of airborne illnesses like COVID-19 or flu, as well as aiding concentration and alertness.

Further education and a small number of early years settings, namely eligible childminders, will be contacted separately with more information on how to receive additional monitors.

DfE is also reopening their programme for DfE-funded air cleaning units. These are for use in classrooms where it is not possible to maintain adequate ventilation and where CO<sub>2</sub> levels are consistently over 1500ppm.

Air cleaning units can help reduce airborne contaminants while remedial work is undertaken. DfE is providing guides on how to apply and on how to use an air cleaning unit.

How to guide:

<https://dfecomms.blob.core.windows.net/guidance/CO2HowtoGuide2022.pdf>

<https://dfecomms.blob.core.windows.net/guidance/ACUHowToGuide2022.pdf>

How to apply:

<https://dfecomms.blob.core.windows.net/guidance/HowtoapplyforaDfEfundedaircleaningunit2022.pdf>

Application form:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=yXfS-qrGoU2187O4s0qC-ZrWrzYoXuBFvIczJ5dewXtUREg3R0RESkEyQVZSUDVSSkJES1I5Q0ozMS4u>

28. Wiltshire's position: As A Council we have notified our schools of this opportunity through our communications.

### **Funding to help schools with high energy bills**

29. The Department for Education (DfE) has today (6 December) announced that schools and colleges in England will be allocated a share of £500 million of funding to spend on energy efficiency upgrades, helping to save on bills during the winter months and manage energy consumption [Link](#) (published 06/12/22)

30. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire schools and colleges will be allocated a share of £500 million to spend on energy efficiency upgrades, helping to save on bills during the winter months and manage energy consumption. This will not only help them save money, but it will make them more energy efficient during the cold period and increase winter resilience for future years. DfE estimations show that on average, a primary school will receive approximately £16,000, a secondary school will get £42,000 and a further education college group will benefit from £290,000. Improvements could

include installing better heating controls, insulation to reduce heat loss from pipes or switching to energy efficient lighting. This builds on the [Government's Energy Relief Scheme](#) which is supporting schools and colleges this winter, and will run until the spring.

### **School capital funding**

31. An overview of school capital funding, who it's for, current and past allocations, how it's calculated and spending guidance. Change made: 'Additional school capital funding for the 2022 to 2023 financial year' section has been added [Link](#) (updated 6/12/22)

32. Wiltshire's position : The DfE have announced that schools will receive an additional capital allocation in the current financial year to improve energy efficiency. The allocations are based upon all schools receiving a flat rate of £10k per school plus a per pupil amount. All schools will therefore receive at least £10k. Payments will be made to schools in late Dec/early January. Schools have been advised of these allocations, provided with the DfE guidance document and reminded that they can access support and advice through Energy Sparks.

### **£490 million skills training boost to help get more people into jobs**

33. Multimillion pound investment to radically improve university and college facilities and provide better teaching for students [Link](#) (published 08/12/22)

34. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire College were not awarded any of this funding, however they have received capital investment over the last few years which has led to improvements at Lackham and Salisbury and a new Electric Vehicle training workshop in Trowbridge.