

Virtual school support for children and young people with a social worker

The Virtual School has a strategic leadership role to improve educational outcomes for all children with a social worker, including those with Child Protection and Child in Need plans.

There are currently 929 children with an active plan in Sandwell, and of those 67% have attendance which is below 95% and 9% of this group have had at least one suspension this academic year.

We are therefore focusing particularly on improving attendance and reducing exclusions for this group of children.



Poverty Proofing

We are pleased to continue to offer fully funded poverty proofing audits to all schools in Sandwell in partnership with Children North East. We have supported a significant number of Primary, Secondary and specialist settings with the audit process and given advice and strategies to remove or reduce the barriers that poverty creates.

For more information and details on how to sign up, please email Emily or Scott:

emily_morgan@sandwell.gov.uk
scott_johnson@sandwell.gov.uk



Services from Sandwell Virtual School

Practitioners drop in sessions

We continue to offer advice, sign posting and support to school staff and social workers related to individual children or wider whole school issues around policy and procedure.

We have worked with a range of practitioners in social care and education to facilitate improved outcomes for children.

Examples of the support we have given are:

- Finding appropriate school placements
- Facilitating home tuition
- Advising on SEND and inclusion
- Preventing exclusions
- Supporting effective managed moves
- Facilitating effective joint working

Please email Rachael or Scott to arrange a time and receive a Teams link:

rachael_wolfel@sandwell.gov.uk
scott_johnson@sandwell.gov.uk

Training and Development

During the spring and summer term we have led a number of training sessions which are open to all school, Local authority, and children's trust staff.

These have been very well received and attended with 142 professionals joining us for at least one session and 100% of delegates saying that they would recommend this training to a colleague.

Just some of the comments we have received:

What was the most useful aspect of the training?:

"All of it, I will be able to use what I have learned in my role but also at home with my own children."

How could this training be improved?: *"Absolutely nothing, it was perfect!"*

Our training offer for Autumn term (schools-focused)

Each session listed is approximately thirty minutes in length.

Training	Date	Time
Improving attendance for vulnerable learners	18.09.2023	1 PM
Impact of trauma on learning	26.09.2023 15.11.2023	10 AM 10 AM
Impact of poverty	29.09.23 29.11.23	1 PM 1 PM
Learning behaviours	04.10.23	1 PM
Exclusions good practice for vulnerable learners	13.10.23	10 AM
Effective joint working with Social workers	13.10.23 24.11.23	1 PM 10 AM

Our training offer for Autumn term (Social Worker-focused)

Each session listed is approximately thirty minutes in length.

Training	Date	Time
Understanding attendance	11.09.23 15.09.23 17.10.23	10 AM 2 PM 2 PM
Understanding SEND	22.09.23 26.10.23	10 AM 1 PM
Understanding the exclusions process	20.11.23	1 PM

Thank You

We very much look forward to continuing to work with schools and social workers to achieve the very best outcomes for all of the children in our care.

Scott Johnson

Lead Advisory Teacher for Children
with a Social Worker

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Rachael Wolffel

Education Development Worker for
Children with a Social Worker

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