



<p>Early Help</p>	<p>Early help guidance for professionals</p> <p>What is early help? Early help means providing support as soon as a problem appears, to stop it from getting worse. This could be at any point in a child's life, from birth to the teenage years.</p> <p>Anyone can provide early help – you don't need to be an expert or a professional. Early help is not about passing the issue on to an expert, but thinking about what is the best support you can offer.</p> <p>You can provide effective support by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Listening ▪ working with other people who could help ▪ finding out about specialist agencies who could help ▪ filling out an Early Help Assessment with the person you are helping ▪ contacting Children's Social Care if you think the problem is more serious <p>There is a lot of information and advice on the Advice, Care, Health and Support pages as well as detail of local services that can provide support for children, young people and families.</p> <p>Download: Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board – Early Help Strategy 2017 to 2020</p> <p>Download: Worcestershire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) strategy</p>
<p>Worcester Family Learning</p>	<p>Family Learning courses are for parents and carers so they can support their child and family at home and enhance their own outcomes by improving their health and wellbeing, improving their social interactions by making friends and engaging in a group, supporting them to find volunteer opportunities or empowering them to progress to further accredited courses or into employment. Family Learning works closely with schools and communities to deliver courses that meet the needs of parents and carers. Our courses are free for anyone earning less than £17,000 per year or anyone unemployed and on benefits. Family Learning courses can be delivered in your school free of charge with no cost to the school.</p>



**Worcestershire
Health and Care**
NHS Trust



The Front Door to
Children's Services

(Previously: Children's
Helpdesk).

Link to book onto courses:

www.Worcestershire.gov.uk/courses

Email to contact the Family Learning Manager to
request bespoke courses:

Jharris5@worcestershire.gov.uk

Adult Community Learning Team phone number for any
enquiries:

01905-728537

Website address:

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20437/adult_and_family_learning_courses

Twitter Account to follow to see new courses:

[Follow @AdultLearningWR](https://twitter.com/AdultLearningWR)

Facebook Account to follow to see new courses:

[@adultlearningworcestershire](https://www.facebook.com/adultlearningworcestershire)

Starting Well Worcestershire

<https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/home>

Starting Well in Worcestershire service brings together teams of staff who provide help and support to children, young people and families. The service will provide support to expectant mums, to newborn babies, to school aged children and teenagers and will work to encourage development and progress.

We place children, young people and families first, delivering safe high-quality services that empower and enable children, young people and families to achieve their full potential.

If a member of staff, parent/carer or member of the public thinks a child or young person is at immediate risk of significant harm they should contact the Family Front Door (FFD) – 01905 822 666 or in an emergency always call 999.

Do not wait to discuss this with the DSL/DDSL but do report it afterwards.



<p>Early intervention family support</p>	<p><u>Advice and guidance for families early help</u></p> <p>EIFS works with Primary, Middle and Special Schools (including their nurseries) to provide support and guidance for children and their families when the needs are first identified at an early stage. The needs can be identified by parents, schools or other professionals which could include worries about bullying, health concerns, behaviour issues, routines and boundary advice and much more.</p>
<p>Children with disabilities team (CWD)</p>	<p>The Children with Disabilities (CwD) Social Work Team provide services designed to meet the needs of children and young people who have complex disabilities.</p> <p>The CwD Social Work Team is one of a range of services that can provide support to children and young people with disabilities and their families. Other services available are those provided by health, education, play and youth services as well as community resources provided by voluntary agencies.</p> <p>The CwD team offer services to those children and young people requiring additional resources in respect of their disability, where the disability has a profound impact on the child or young person's life.</p> <p>An assessment will be offered where the child has a condition which is substantial, long lasting or permanent, is a physical and/or learning disability or a life limiting, life threatening condition. These may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • severe learning disabilities • severe physical disabilities • severe developmental delay in motor and or cognitive functioning • profound multiple disabilities • severe sensory impairment (registered blind and/or profoundly deaf) • complex and severe health problems that arise from the disability, that are life threatening, degenerative illness or organic disorder resulting in severe disability



- a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition with an associated learning disability and where the condition severely affects day to day functioning

SEN Services and Support Groups

- [9 Tea Cups](#)
- [autismlinks](#)
Links to events, services and information of use to families of people with Autism
- [Autism Spectrum Condition and Learning Disabilities Group](#), a group for family members and carers, Kidderminster Hospital
- [Autism West Midlands](#) a support group for young people aged 16-24 with Asperger's Syndrome in the Malvern Hills area
- [Autism in Worcestershire](#)
ASPIE is a social self-help and motivation group for adults with Asperger's Syndrome. We provide a center in Worcester where Aspies feel welcome and accepted.
- Children's Centre. Find out what's happening at [your local Children's Centre](#)
- Community Paediatric Service
Community Paediatric Service is concerned with developmental delay and learning disability; Motor difficulties such as cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy; Neuro-developmental conditions including ADHD and ASD; complex behavioural difficulties; sensory impairment; statutory medical & educational assessments ([The Community Paediatric Service South Worcestershire](#), [The Community Paediatric Service Wyre Forest](#) and [The Community Paediatric Service Redditch and Bromsgrove](#))
- [Council for Disabled Children](#)
A host of useful leaflets on SEND issues many in Easy Read format to help children understand
- [Disability Information Advice Line \(DIAL\) Worcestershire](#)
Website of the disability advice line South Worcestershire; local info on: Mobility; Benefits and Finance; Carers Support and Respite; Community and Voluntary Support; Disabled Children's Services; Education and Employment; Health; Housing; Independent Living; Learning Disabilities; Legal Support; Leisure and Holidays; Mental Health; Mobility and Aids to Daily Living and Older People's Services



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyslexia Parent Support Group. Find out more from the Worcestershire Dyslexic Support Group • Footprints Support for Bereaved Children and their Families in Worcestershire <p>Support for bereaved children and their families in Worcestershire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Disabilities (opens in a new window) We work with people with learning disabilities, their families and the people who support them.
<p>DDNs (Dangerous Drug Networks)</p>	<p>DDN's are drug dealing gangs who target vulnerable people in order to set up drugs distribution networks.</p> <p>These criminals are using extreme violence to establish a presence, displacing an existing drug supply chain and intimidating rivals, witnesses and victims, this has resulted in local murders.</p> <p>DDN's exploit vulnerable teenagers to become drug runners for their network. Early intervention and intelligence are key to safeguard and protect the vulnerable.</p> <p>For professionals that work with young people (PDF, 1.3 MB)</p> <p>For professionals working in housing (PDF, 1.3 MB)</p> <p>Drug Gangs and Exploitation (PDF, 556.6 KB)</p>
<p>Child Criminal Exploitation (County Lines)</p>	<p>Here is some guidance for frontline professionals on dealing with county lines, part of the government's approach to ending gang violence and exploitation: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines</p> <p>Children who are trafficked, exploited or coerced into committing crimes are victims in need of safeguarding and support. Though perceptions are altering these young people are still often criminalised and perceived as having 'made a choice' to take part in illegal activity. https://www.catch-22.org.uk/child-criminal-exploitation/</p>
<p>Channel/ Prevent</p>	<p>What are we doing to prevent extremism and radicalisation?</p>



We shall be working to embed the "Prevent" agenda into Worcestershire County Council activity by supporting families, individuals, schools, colleges, fostering services and safeguarding services.

We all need to together promote strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and within neighborhoods.

For the next steps please download our [Prevention of extremism and radicalisation – Referral Process \(PDF\)](#) document.

To make a referral please download the [Prevention of Extremism and Radicalisation - Referral form \(Word\)](#) document.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/getsafe>



7. Child



Get Safe




Letter to education

Exploitation Initial ANotification Form Giabout Get Safe weel

Useful Websites

- [Barnardo's](#) spot the signs: Advice for parents, professionals and young people on the signs of sexual exploitation and how to keep safe
- [Department for Education \(Gov.uk\)](#) National Action Plan for Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation
- [Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation](#) pace is the leading national charity working with parents and carers whose children are sexually exploited
- [NSPCC](#) definitions, statistics, facts and resources about CSE.
- [NWG Network](#): Fighting against CSE and working to inform, educate and prevent child sexual abuse within the UK.
- Spotting The Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation: a 15 minute [YouTube clip](#) from Health Education England



<p>Domestic violence</p> <p>COVID-19 and Domestic abuse Support.</p> 	<p>Here is a very helpful website for what do to in many different difficult situations: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20379/domestic-violence-and-sexual-abuse</p> <p>West Mercia Women's Aid: 0800 980 3331 0800 783 1359 helpline@westmerciawomensaid.org</p> <p>Further reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship Statutory Guidance Framework (GOV.UK website, opens in a new window) • Groups for parents - information and guidance • https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/domesticabuse • Men's Advice Line 0808 801 0327 www.mensadvice.org.uk • Confidential helpline for men experiencing domestic violence from a partner or ex-partner (or from other family members). They help by: giving you time to tell your story; offering emotional support; providing practical advice; signposting you to other services for specialised support. <p>https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/</p>
<p>Teenage relationships</p>	<p>CRUSH - is an awareness raising and support programme to help young people make safe and healthy relationships. The sessions are run in small groups and are specifically designed for 13-19 year olds.</p> <p>http://www.westmerciawomensaid.org/crush/</p>
<p>Fabricated and induced illness (FII)</p>	<p>Fabricated or induced illness (FII) is a rare form of child abuse. It occurs when a parent or carer , exaggerates or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in the child.</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Fabricated-or-induced-illness/</p>



<p>Faith abuse</p>	<p>Faith and belief-based child abuse, including practices around 'spirit possession' and 'witchcraft', is a hidden crime, which makes it difficult to quantify in terms of magnitude. However, from our own experience and in consultation with communities, we know this kind of abuse is under-reported.</p> <p>Further contacts for advice can be found from the local representatives for some faiths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Exploration of Knowledge About Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief (2016) • National Action Plan to Tackle Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief (2012) • Safeguarding Children from Abuse Linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession (2007) this good practice guidance is archived but still available. • Eleanor Stobart report 2006: Child Abuse Linked To Accusations of Possession And Witchcraft (2006) • Unicef study report: Children Accused of Witchcraft • AFRUCA: Africans Unite Against Child Abuse
<p>Honour based violence (HBV)</p>	<p>Honour based violence (HBV) can affect men and women across a number of cultures and communities and is defined as a crime or incident committed to protect or defend the honour of the family. Issues including choice of dress, friends, relationships and careers can all be perceived as impacting on a family's honour. HBV has the potential to be both a domestic abuse and child abuse concern.</p> <p>Honour based violence can be distinguished from other forms of violence as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members.</p> <p>Karma Nirvana</p>



	<p>UK helpline: 08005 999247 Monday to Friday Email: Info@karmanirvana.org.uk</p> <p>Honour network survivors helpline</p> <p>Honour network survivors helpline telephone: 0800 5999247 Online help for mixed couples whose relationship are opposed by family or community.</p> <p>Refuge Halo Project</p> <p>Website: Refuge (opens in a new window)</p> <p>Safe lives</p> <p>Email: rea@safelives.org.uk</p>
<p>Female genital mutilation (FGM)</p>	<p>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal or the external female genitalia. FGM is illegal in the UK and as of October 2015 mandatory reporting commenced. If education staff or other professionals discovers that an act FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18 years old there is a statutory (legal) duty on teachers for them PERSONALLY to report it to the police.</p> <p>Read http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/female-genitalmutilation for NHS information and signs of FGM. Any suspicion of FGM should be referred to the Police and social care.</p> <p>- Annalise Price-Thomas (Head of Service) has completed the online home office training, 'Female Genital Mutilation: Recognising and Preventing FGM' - E-learning package- http://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/ for interested staff or professionals (free home office elearning)</p>
<p>Forced marriage</p>	<p>UK Forced Marriage Unit fmufco.gov.uk Telephone: 020 7008 0151 Call 999 (police) in an emergency. www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage for information on Forced Marriage. Visit Home Office website to undertake Forced Marriage e-learning package https://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage. GSCB one day Awareness training delivered by Infobuzz</p>



	<p>www.gscb.org.uk Please see 'Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines- Handling cases of Forced Marriage' for more information and detail: https://www.gov.uk/forcedmarriage. Prevention Freedom Charity- Aneeta Prem 'But it's not fair' book. A book for teenagers looking at forced marriage from the point of view of school friends of the girl who went to India and didn't come back. This book promotes discussion. www.freedomcharity.org.uk The Freedom Charity (UK charity) have a helpline, text facility and app which can be downloaded to help to provide support and protection for victims of abuse, FGM or forced marriage. They can be contacted on tel: 0845 607 0133 or text 4freedom to 88802 or go to the website to download the app from the app page.</p>
<p>Gangs and youth violence</p>	<p>Here is a PDF assisting with Gangs and Youth https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418131/Preventing_youth_violence_and_gang_involvement_v3_March2015.pdf This is a website for the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative: http://www.worcesterma.gov/youth-opportunities/youth-violence-prevention</p>
<p>Gender-based violence/violence against women and girls</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-evidence-digest-january-2018 For information about West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse visit: https://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/ FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) is violence against women and girls. Forced marriage and so called 'Honour' based violence are a violation against human rights and is a high priority area of the national and local Violence Against Women and Girls Agenda. It is, primarily an issue for young women and girls aged between 13 and 30 years. Hope House SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre): 01452 754390 www.onyourmindglos.nhs.uk for 'I've been raped or sexually assaulted' information.</p>
<p>Gender Identity Issues</p>	<p>The Gender Trust is a listening ear, a caring support and an information centre for anyone with any question concerning their gender identity, or whose loved one is struggling with gender identity issues. People who might be Transgender, Transsexual or people who do</p>



	<p>not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth or those who are simply unsure. Address: 76 The Ridgeway, Astwood Bank, B96 6LX tel: 0845 231 0505 www.gendertrust.org.uk</p>
Private fostering	<p>National Fostering Agency (NFA) Call on: 0808 284 9226</p> <p>Kinship Care Kinship care means that relatives or friends look after children who cannot live with their parents. Visit this website for more information: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/privatefostering</p>
Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism/HATE (PREVENT duty)	<p>www.educateagainsthate.com is the government website providing information and practical advice for parents, teachers and schools leaders on protecting children from radicalisation and extremism. Anti-Terrorist Hotline: tel 0800 789 321 also be raised by email to the Home office: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk. Let's talk about it is an excellent website for parents: www.ltai.info/ as is www.preventtragedies.co.uk While it remains very rare for school age children to become involved in extremist activity to the point of committing criminal acts, young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet, from an early age. As with other forms of criminality or risk of harm, early intervention is always preferable. Schools, working with other local partners, families and communities, can help support pupils who may be vulnerable as part of wider safeguarding responsibilities. Channel guidance: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf</p>
Sexting/Sextortion/youth produced imagery	<p>http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keepingchildren-safe/sexting (NSPCC website).</p> <p>https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/8206/Sexting (West Mercia Police website)</p>
Children Missing in Education (CME)	<p>Children Missing Education (CME) refers to 'any child of compulsory school age who is not registered at</p>



	<p>any formally approved education activity eg school, alternative provision, elective home education, and has been out of education provision for at least 4 weeks'. CME also includes those children who are missing (family whereabouts unknown), and are usually children who are registered on a school roll / alternative provision. This might be a child who is not at their last known address and either has not taken up an allocated school place as expected, or has 10 or more days of continuous absence from school without explanation, or left school suddenly and the destination is unknown.</p> <p>This is the link for Children Missing Education on the Worcestershire website http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20595/behaviour_and_attendance/293/children_missing_education</p> <p>Babcock Prime – Educational Welfare Team: Primeedinvservice@babcockinternational.com 01905 678138</p>
<p>Missing Children and Adults Strategy (vulnerable children and adults who go missing)</p>	<p>Every year an estimated 200,000 people go missing in the UK. In some cases, missing adults may have made a choice to leave and ‘start their lives over again’, but the vast majority of missing people, children and adults, are vulnerable and need protection and support. The strategy has three key objectives which provide the right foundations for any effective local strategy to tackle this issue: Prevention - reducing the number of people who go missing, including through prevention strategies, education work and early intervention in cases where children and adults repeatedly go missing Protection - reducing the harm to those who go missing, including through a tailored, risk-based response and ensuring agencies work together to find and close cases as quickly as possible at a local and national level Provision - providing support and advice to missing persons and families by referring them to agencies promptly and ensuring they understand how and where to access help. The police should be informed if any child or adult goes missing. The Missing Children and Adults strategy can then be referred to for further information and help. It is a home office publication (2011).</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/missi</p>



	<p>ng-children-and-adults-strategy https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117793/missing-persons-strategy.pdf</p>
<p>Children with family members in prison</p>	<p>Approximately 200,000 children have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. NICCO (www.nicco.org.uk) provides information to support professionals working with offenders and their children to help mitigate the negative consequences for these children.</p> <p>https://www.solgrid.org.uk/education/safeguarding/child-protection/issues/children-family-prison/</p>
<p>Children and the court system</p>	<p>Children are sometimes required to give evidence in courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are two guides to support these children which can be found at www.gov.uk (young witness booklet for 5 to 11 year olds) which is a pdf. There is also a document called “going to court and being a witness age 12 to 17” which is also found at www.gov.uk. Making family arrangements via court can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. The ministry of Justice has just launched an online dispute resolution service. This can be useful to parents and carers. Got to www.gov.uk and search for “get help with arrangements.”</p>
<p>Stalking</p>	<p>General Advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If it doesn't feel right it probably isn't! ▪ Seek support from trusted family/friends ▪ Report to the police and do this early ▪ Keep a diary in a secure location ▪ Screenshot emails etc and save them ▪ Photograph/video your stalker if safely possible. ▪ Get advice: Hollie Gazzard Trust, Paladin etc... ▪ Tighten security; home, work and on-line <p>National Stalking Helpline For advice and support. The helpline will operate a triage service for local support and make referrals - Phone: 0808 802 0300 Website: www.stalkinghelpline.org Email: advice@stalkinghelpline.org</p> <p>Paladin: National Stalking Advocacy Service For advice and referral. Phone line: 020 3866 4107</p>



	<p>Email: info@paladinservice.co.uk Website: www.paladinservice.co.uk/</p> <p>Hollie Gazzard Trust https://holliegazzard.org/</p>								
<p>Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges</p>	<p>Here is advice from the WCC webpage: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20379/domestic_abuse_and_sexual_violence/886/sexual_violence_and_abuse</p> <p>West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre: https://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/ 01905 724 514 <u>Helpline opening times:</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>7.30pm to 9.30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>1.00pm to 5.00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>7.30pm to 9.30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>10.00am to 2.00pm</td> </tr> </table>	Monday	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Tuesday	1.00pm to 5.00pm	Thursday	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Friday	10.00am to 2.00pm
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