

# Designated Safeguarding Lead Update

Issue 4  
Term 6,  
2023-24



Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Designated Safeguarding Lead update which is published termly. The aim of this publication is to provide some information, updates, contacts, useful strategies and ideas to support the work you do with children subject to CIN and CP planning, and children who have at some point been open to Children's Social Care. Please also take time to look at this webpage [Children with a social worker | Oxfordshire County Council](#) and [Children in kinship care | Oxfordshire County Council](#) to support your work with these cohorts. If you have any questions/requests regarding content, contact [laura.east@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:laura.east@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## CONTACT US

### Website:

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/virtualschool](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/virtualschool)

Direct Line: 01865 328550

### Email:

[virtualschool.lac@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool.lac@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Virtual School Training Programme 2023/24 – BOOK HERE

### Upcoming training:

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June

PACE for School Staff

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June

Oxfordshire Virtual School Conference

**Bookings for 2024-25 training will be open on Education Services very soon.**

### For example:

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

De-escalation Training (Session 1 of 2)

## What is a Family Group Conference?

A Family Group Conference (FGC) is a meeting for family and friends to come together to be involved in the decisions being made for the child concerned. It enables families and friends to take responsibility for the child and find solutions to address family and professional concerns.

For more information, click on the below link

[YPSA-7minguide-FGC](#)  
[oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk) or contact  
[fgc@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:fgc@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB)

Access a wide range of training, support, advice and resources via the OSCB website.

See below for information on safeguarding themes:

[Safeguarding themes - Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board](#)  
[oscb.org.uk](http://oscb.org.uk)

See below for the Multi-Agency Toolkit:

[Multi-Agency Toolkit - Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board](#)  
[oscb.org.uk](http://oscb.org.uk)

## Podcast Series from Beacon School

[Click here](#) to listen to 'The School Behaviour Secrets' podcast series from the Beacon School on topics such as: *Creative Approaches To Help Children Experiencing Sadness* and *Using The PACE Approach For Effective Behaviour Management* + many more!

# Attendance is everybody's business

## The attendance of children on CIN and CP plans is your business

### Average attendance

Status	Year groups 0 - 6			Year groups 7 - 11			All year groups		
	Last year	This year	Change	Last year	This year	Change	Last year	This year	Change
EHCP (all children)	92%	93%	1%	92%	91%	-1%	92%	92%	0%
EHCP (children with open cases)	90%	89%	-1%	88%	84%	-4%	89%	87%	-2%
LCSS	93%	93%	0%	88%	86%	-2%	92%	92%	0%
Early Help	93%	93%	-1%	86%	77%	-9%	92%	90%	-2%
Open C&FA	91%	92%	1%	88%	87%	-1%	90%	90%	0%
ChIN	90%	91%	1%	87%	81%	-6%	89%	88%	-1%
CPP	87%	87%	0%	70%	59%	-11%	84%	83%	-1%
CWCF	96%	96%	0%	93%	92%	-1%	95%	94%	-1%

Median average. "Last year" includes entirety of last academic year. "This year" includes current academic year to date. "Change" shows difference between the two. Changes of at least +/- 5% are highlighted

Attendance of children in Oxfordshire at the start of Term 6 2023/24

Don't wait until a child's attendance drops below 90% to act! As soon as you see signs of attendance slipping, take action!

### Count of Children

	Year groups 0 - 6	Year groups 7 - 11	All year groups
EHCP (all children)	2352	1869	4221
EHCP (children with open cases)	463	415	878
LCSS	955	520	1475
Early Help	454	284	738
Open C&FA	146	131	277
ChIN	383	355	738
CPP	181	126	307
CWCF	85	141	226

While there remains some improvement in the attendance primary-aged children open to C&FA and subject to CIN planning compared to last year, **secondary school attendance (and the attendance of children open to EHCNA and Early Help) remains a significant concern.**

You can see from the table above that:

- Primary-aged children subject to CIN and CP planning are on average absent from school for the equivalent of at least 1 day a fortnight;
- Secondary-aged children open to Early Help and subject to CIN planning are on average absent from school for the equivalent of 2 days a fortnight; and
- **Secondary-aged children subject to CP planning (the most vulnerable) are on average absent from school for the equivalent of nearly 4 days a fortnight – that's nearly 4 months!**

*If they are not in school, how can you be sure they are safe? What can you do to make school unmissable?*

**\*\* CALLING ALL SECONDARY SCHOOL DSLs \*\***

**We urge you to uphold your duties to consider every one of your young people subject to CP planning and work with the team around those young people to find a way forward.**

# LCSS Locality Networking Events



Approximately 70 colleagues joined a recent LCSS South event to network and hear a presentation on Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing delivered by Mental Health Schools Teams (CAMHS) and the Youth Gambling Agency.

Feedback has been positive across the county about the benefit of Locality Networking Events, with schools reporting it helpful to gain more insight to services available for children and families in their communities.

Please look out for Autumn dates in [Schools News](#).

## Pupil Premium Plus for Previously Cared for Children

The 2023/24 Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) allocation for children adopted from care, children who left care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) and children who left care under a Child Arrangement Order (CAO) is £2570.

To secure PP+ for Previously Cared For Children (where a child has not returned to their birth parents), it is the responsibility of the educational setting to check with parents/carers regarding a child's status in order to record the child's status on systems in advance of the January census. Do bear this in mind as you receive new starters.

For more information, visit [Previously cared for children | Oxfordshire County Council](#) and go to 'Pupil Premium Grant'

### School Readiness and Lifelong Learning Newsletter

The May issue of the newsletter can be found here:  
[School Readiness and Lifelong Learning Newsletter May 2024 \(cloud.microsoft\)](#)



## Access EEF funded teaching and learning programmes

*Take part in an EEF project*

The EEF are recruiting schools, colleges, and early years settings to take part in trials of high-potential programmes.

These include:

- [Mastering Maths](#) (Post-16 settings)
- [Tutor Trust](#) (Post-16 settings)
- [Primary Sciences Quality Mark](#) (Primary schools)
- [Mathematical Reasoning](#) (Primary schools)
- [Maths Mastery](#) (Secondary schools)
- [Early Years Conversation Project](#) (Early years)
- [Talking Time](#) (Early years)

You can find out more here: [Take part in an EEF project | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](#)